BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. MDCCCXXXVIII | VOL. 76 NO. 65 | NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 PAGES 32 | CAPITAL | **INVITATION PRICE** ₹5.50; *₹9.50 WITH ET OR ₹10.00 (₹8.50 IN FARIDABAD EDITION) WITH NAVBHARAT TIMES

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MOTORCYCLE DIARIES FROM ABUJHMARH

Once a dreaded Red bastion, Abujhmarh is now being transformed by security ops and govt outreach. **TOI** takes a motorcycle ride through the former Maoist stronghold to present a story of hope and reconstruction | P 15

China welcomes Modi's positive remarks on ties

'Tango Between Dragon & Jumbo Only Right Choice'

Sachin.Parashar
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As US President Donald Trump shared PM Modi's podcast with Lex Fridman on Truth Social, the PM debuted on the social media platform, posting a photo with Trump from the 'Howdy Modi' event in Houston in 2019. 'Delighted to be on Truth Social! Looking forward to interacting with all the passionate voices here and engaging in meaningful conversations in the times to come,' the PM wrote in his first post | P 20

New Delhi: India and China should be partners contributing to each other's success and a cooperative "pas de deux" between the dragon and the elephant is the only right choice for the two countries, Beijing said while welcoming PM Modi's "positive" remarks in a podcast in which he had endorsed signs of a rapprochement in ties since Oct last year.

▶EDIT: Find The Connect

In the interaction with Lex Fridman, Modi had also strongly backed Donald Trump's policies and the US president even shared the podcast on his social media platform, Truth Social.

Modi had said on Sunday that the border situation with China was normalising since his meeting with President Xi Jinping in Kazan in Oct and trust would return in the relationship "slowly but surely". Seeking a cooperative relationship, he also said it was natural for India and China to have differences, and the focus should be on ensuring that these don't turn into disputes.

▶ 'Ready to work...', P 20

US concerned about B'desh minorities, will defeat 'Islamist terror' globally: Tulsi

PTI

New Delhi: Visiting director of national intelligence Tulsi Gabbard said the US was concerned about the persecution of minorities in Bangladesh and the Trump admin was committed to defeating "Islamist terrorism" globally. She told NDTV World that PM Modi also took this threat seriously and added that the two leaders would work together to identify and defeat the threat.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh, in his meeting with Gabbard (pic), asked US to designate SFJ, which is banned in India for promoting pro-Khalistan activities, a foreign terrorist organisation. P 8

Bajaj to buy out Allianz stakes in JVs

In the biggest insurance sector deal, Bajaj will buy out Allianz's 26% stake in their life and non-life insurance ventures for Rs 13,780cr and Rs 10,400cr, respectively, ending a 24-year tie-up. Allianz hadn't raised its stake in the JVs due to differences with Bajaj. P 17

Rape accused out on bail uploads video

A rape accused in Kanpur out on bail recently uploaded a video of the crime on social media after the survivor refused to withdraw criminal proceedings against him. The woman filed a fresh complaint against him Sunday. Cops are looking for him. TNN

Maha man, 55, kills leopard to save dog

A 55-year-old psychologist fought off a leopard for 15 minutes and killed it to save his pet dog in Chiplun area of Maharashtra's Ratnagiri. Ashish Mahajan suffered serious injuries during the confrontation in the wee hours of Sunday and is recuperating in hospital. P 13

Modi seeks NZ's support to rein in Khalistan backers

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi sought continued cooperation from New Zealand for reining in anti-India activities of pro-Khalistan separatists in a bilateral meeting with his counterpart Christopher Luxon.

The two countries also signed seven agreements, including one for defence cooperation, **reports Sachin Parashar.** Modi officially announced the launch of negotiations for a free trade agreement and also an arrangement to facilitate the mobility of professionals and skilled workers.

▶India for development, P20

Putin, Trump will talk today in bid to end war

US President Donald Trump will speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday in efforts to end the war in Ukraine and an opportunity for Trump to continue reorienting American foreign policy.

He disclosed about the upcoming conversation to reporters while flying from Florida to Washington on Air Force One on Sunday, while the Kremlin confirmed Putin's participation on Monday. "We will see if we have something to announce maybe by Tuesday. I will be speaking to President Putin on Tuesday," Trump said. P 16

'Independence of CAG inbuilt': SC on petition for new appt method

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New Delhi: Supreme Court Monday sought govt's response to a PIL seeking an "independent and transparent" procedure for appointment of CAG on the lines of the one the court had devised for CVC, but not before asking, "When Constitution provides for unbridled power to executive to appoint CAG, should we rewrite that provision?"

"Constitution says once appointed as CAG, the person enjoys constitutional protection from arbitrary removal by executive as he/she can be removed only through a removal motion in Parliament," Justice Surya Kant said. "The provisions have ensured CAG's independence," the bench also comprising Justice N Kotiswar Singh said.

▶CAG debate, P 20

IN THE COURTS

➤ Bombay HC **discharges Gautam & Rajesh Adani in alleged mkt regulations violation case** | P 8

➤ **Nitish Katara murder: SC contempt notice to Delhi principal secy** for not deciding on remission | P 6

➤ SC **junks bail plea of ex-Guj IAS officer in graft, laundering case** | P 10

Denying bail in less serious offences unfortunate: SC

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New Delhi: Expressing concern over courts denying bail in not very serious cases despite probe being completed, Supreme Court on Monday said it is unfortunate that relief is not being granted in such cases and the apex court has to intervene.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said that 20 years ago, bail plea in such cases did not even reach HCs. It is shocking that the apex court is adjudicating such cases and it is flooded with such petitions, it said.

▶Bail cases even..., P 20

HC nixes detention of ex-J&K Bar chief

J&K HC on Monday quashed former Kashmir Bar Association president Nazir Ahmad Ronga's preventive detention since July 10 last year, saying allegations against him are "vague". P 11

ITBP constable shoots ASI after row on uniform

Saroj Kumar, an ITBP constable, pumped 13 bullets into his senior, ASI Devender Singh Dahiya, at a camp near Raipur Monday after being allegedly pulled up over his uniform. Police is questioning Kumar. In the past five years, 30 security personnel have lost their lives to fragging in Chhattisgarh. P 20

Musk's Starlink likely to face spectrum tax

Starlink is likely to face a spectrum tax in India, which had been abolished for terrestrial network providers such as Reliance Jio, Airtel and Vodafone Idea a few years ago, sources said. The tax, if imposed, will increase service costs for Elon Musk-run satcom venture in India. P 17

Ajit admits funds diversion, will review Ladki list

Deputy CM Ajit Pawar told the assembly that several well-off women were among Ladki Bahin scheme beneficieries and the list would be "corrected" to cover only the poor. He confirmed **TOI**'s report on March 15 that a portion of over 40% hike in SC-ST outlay in the annual plan would be used for Ladki Bahin scheme. P 20

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PWD issues guidelines to desilt drains along roads | 5

TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

TEMP ON MONDAY
29.2° MAXIMUM | 16.8° MINIMUM

FORECAST Mainly clear sky. Max and min temperatures on Tuesday would be around 32°C and 17°C

MOONSET 8.53AM (WED) SUNSET 6.31PM (TUE)
MOONRISE 10.13PM (TUE) SUNRISE 6.26AM (WED)

109 AQI IN DELHI ON MONDAY (MODERATE)

HC seeks govt stand on plea challenging commercial flights from Hindon airport | 6

828 LIG, EWS flats up for grabs; booking starts today | 7

Split-Station Design To See Platforms In 2 Buildings On Either Side Of Road

GOLDEN LINE: To Be Linked With 45m-Long FOB; Identical Stns To Come up At Khanpur, Ambedkar Nagar

Priyangi.Agarwal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi Metro's Tughlaqabad-Aerocity Corridor, the Golden Line, will feature the city's first-ever split-station design at the two stations at Khanpur and Ambedkar Nagar. With the platforms located in two separate buildings on either side of the Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, a 45-metre-long foot bridge will connect the two structures.

Both Khanpur and Ambedkar Nagar metro stations are identical. "A major highlight of the upcoming Tughlakabad-Aerocity corridor is the innovative three-level station design at Khanpur and Ambedkar Nagar, which involves two separate buildings across the road — an unprecedented move in Delhi Metro's history. For the first time, passengers will experience a unique station layout where concourses are split on either side of the road instead of being centrally located," said a Delhi Metro Rail Corporation official.

The official added that a strategically designed foot bridge would seamlessly connect these two buildings, allowing commuters to switch platforms with ease. Besides, a double-decker viaduct between Saket G Block and Sangam Vihar metro station, covering around 4 km, is also being constructed. Metro trains will move on the first deck of the viaduct and vehicles on the lower deck. The foot bridge and double-decker viaduct too will criss-cross each other at both Khanpur and Ambedkar Nagar metro stations.

This innovative design optimises space in a congested urban setting and enhances accessibility. "Due to a shortage of land and restrictions on reducing road width, a split design was chosen for these two stations," explained another official.

Delhi Metro's stations currently have only two levels: platform and concourse levels. However, Khanpur and Ambedkar Nagar stations will have three levels: platform, concourse and foot bridge levels. Around 20 metres is the distance from road level to platform level at these unique stations. The width of these two stations is nine metres, while the platforms are mostly 3-4 metres wide at other stations.

To ensure smooth movement, eight escalators and four lifts will provide efficient vertical connectivity from the ground to the platform level and platform to ground. Other metro stations usually have three to four lifts.

Unlike traditional metro stations, the concourse at these two stations will house technical rooms, security checks and automated fare collection gates, while essential facilities like the station control room and public amenities like toilets will be located at the platform level instead of the concourse. "By integrating metro infrastructure with the road network, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation continues to redefine urban mobility," said the official.

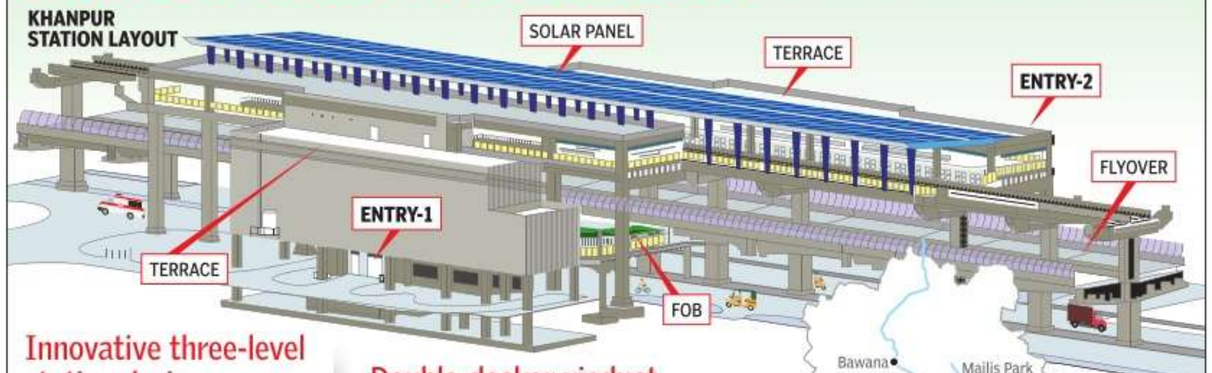
The official added that the project is currently at the construction phase, with completion anticipated by 2026. Upon completion, the Golden Line is expected to significantly reduce travel time and improve accessibility to key areas in south Delhi. The Aerocity–Tughlaqabad section, part of Delhi Metro's Phase IV expansion, is designed to enhance connectivity across the southern region of the city. This corridor spans 23.6km with 19.3km of underground section and 4.3km of elevated tracks. There are 15 stations, including 11 underground and four elevated stations.

The stations on this route are Tughlaqabad, Tughlaqabad Railway Colony, Anandmayee Marg interchange, Sangam Vihar-Tigri, Khanpur, Ambedkar Nagar, Saket G-Block, Neb Sarai, IGNOU, Chhatarpur Mandir, Chhatarpur, Kishangarh, Vasant Kunj, Mahipalpur and Delhi Aerocity.

This line will provide vital interchanges with existing metro lines, including the Airport Express Line at Delhi Aerocity station, the Yellow Line at Chhatarpur and the Violet Line at Tughlaqabad station. The integration will facilitate seamless travel for passengers to various parts of the city.

Apart from a double-decker viaduct being constructed from Saket G Block to Sangam Vihar, Delhi govt, in association with DMRC, is constructing two additional double-decker viaducts between Bhajanpura and Yamuna Vihar on the Majlis Park-Maujpur corridor and Azadpur and Rani Jhansi Road intersection on the RK Ashram Marg-Janakpuri West corridor.

TWO PLATFORMS, TWO BUILDINGS. HOW IT WILL WORK



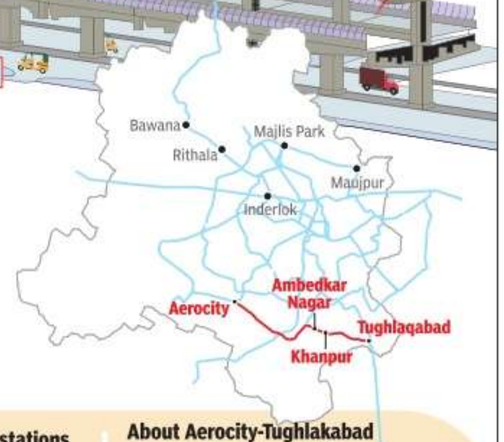
Innovative three-level station design

DMRC to construct first-ever split-station design at two metro stations | Khanpur and Ambedkar Nagar on upcoming Tughlakabad-Aerocity corridor (Golden Line)

- Parts of the stations will be housed in two separate buildings across Mehrauli-Badarpur Road...
- ... which means each platform will be located on either side of Mehrauli-Badarpur Road
- A 45m-long FOB will connect both buildings at these two stations
- Both Khanpur and Ambedkar Nagar metro stations will be identical

Double-decker viaduct

- A 4km-long double-decker viaduct is being constructed between Saket G Block and Sangam Vihar
- Metro trains will move on the first deck with vehicles on the lower deck
- Double-decker viaduct and FOBs at Khanpur and Ambedkar Nagar will criss-cross each other



About Khanpur and Ambedkar Nagar stations

20m	140m	9m
Road level to platform level	Length of platform	Width of platform

8 escalators and 4 lifts for smooth connectivity from ground to platform

About Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor (deadline 2026)

19.3km	4.3km
Underground length	Elevated length
23.6km	**15**
Length	Stations

MCD rejects exec wing's proposal to hike parking rates

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New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi rejected a proposal to increase public parking charges though it conceded there was a continuous rise in vehicle numbers. It said technological intervention in the parking system needed to be enhanced in addition to increasing parking rates. But the Aam Aadmi Party argued that motorists needed to be protected from a fee hike.

"The executive wing's proposal suggested an increase in parking fees based on colony categories as per circle rates," said leader of the House Mukesh Goyal. "For example, parking rates for areas in categories A to D would pay Rs 30 for an hour against Rs 20 at present, going up to Rs 105 for four hours with a further increase of Rs 30 per hour after that. Currently, MCD charges Rs 100 for 24 hours irrespective of the area. We can't put such a heavy burden on car owners." MCD runs 420 paid parking sites.

Among other matters approved during the 10 minutes the meeting lasted amid ruckus was a private proposal to convert Bhalswa Dairy to a residential colony. Goyal said, "This is aimed at saving residential buildings in the dairy area from sealing. Given that this was a private proposal, the commissioner had to table a preamble in the House, but he came with a detailed reply turning down a change in land use." The House rejected the commissioner's reply.

The commissioner contended that land use change was DDA's domain and the conversion proposal was against the terms and conditions of the allotment and also not in alignment with the court directions. "Delhi High Court had directed action against the unauthorised construction and illegal change of use of dairy plots. The matter is sub judice and no change can be undertaken," the commissioner said.

MCD also passed another proposal, authorising the release of Rs 48 crore to four cow shelters. Stray cattle caught by the civic body are sent to Manav Gausadan at Rewla Khanpur, Dabar Hare Krishna Gaushala at Surhera, Gopal Gausadan at Hareveli and

Among other matters approved during the 10 minutes the meeting lasted amid ruckus was a private proposal to convert Bhalswa Dairy to a residential colony

Shri Krishna Gaushala at Sultanpur Dabas, all under the administrative control of Delhi govt's animal husbandry department. MCD pays the shelters Rs 20 per animal per day for feed. This is in addition to Rs 20 per bovine Delhi govt pays these gaushalas. The pending liability up to March 2024 is Rs 35 crore and Rs 13.8 crore for the 2024-25 fiscal, the proposal said.

The House also extended the existing maintenance contract for streetlights with two power discoms for three more months after the contracts lapse on April 8.

Reacting to the adjournment of the House within 10 minutes, leader of opposition Raja Iqbal Singh of BJP alleged, "The leader of the House and AAP do not want MCD to function smoothly."

TIMES Special

Police solve ₹1cr heist within 24 hrs; arrest help, accomplice

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Shahdara police solved a Rs 1 crore heist within 24 hours of the incident with the arrest of the prime suspect and his accomplice. The theft took place on March 15 at the residence of businessman S Gupta.

According to DCP Prashant Gautam, Gupta had hired domestic help Nagarjun through a placement agency just three days prior to the incident. On the day of Holi, Gupta and his family left for Gurgaon, leaving Nagarjun alone at the house. Upon their return, they saw that the locks on the gate were broken and Nagarjun was nowhere to be found.

An investigation revealed that Nagarjun stole Rs 6 lakh in cash, along with gold and diamond jewellery worth around Rs 1 crore. Police registered a case under Section 306 (burglary) of the BNS.

A team, led by inspector Munish, analysed CCTV footage from over 100 cameras and gathered local intelligence. Their efforts paid off when Nagarjun, whose real name turned out to be Suresh Malik, was identified along with his accomplice, Rohit Kumar Malik. Raids were conducted and the two men were apprehended from Lado Sarai. Cops recovered the stolen jewellery, cash and Nagarjun's scooter, which was used in the crime.

During investigation, it was found that no police verification of the accused was done by the businessman. Nagarjun had used a fake Aadhaar card to obtain mobile phone SIM.

NHAI readying DPRs for 3 link roads for better connectivity

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New Delhi: With BJP's infra-push upon returning to power in Delhi govt, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has begun preparing detailed project reports (DPRs) for three new roads that will connect upcoming expressways, aimed at reducing traffic congestion on arterial roads. Although the initial estimate for the cost of the three links was around Rs 9,100 crore, the exact cost will be determined after the finalisation of the DPRs.

Officials said the work plan and necessary fund allocation would be made after the DPRs. "We are hopeful of completing the DPRs in 6-7 months so that work can start in the near future. The exact alignment and configuration will be known after the DPRs are prepared," said an official.

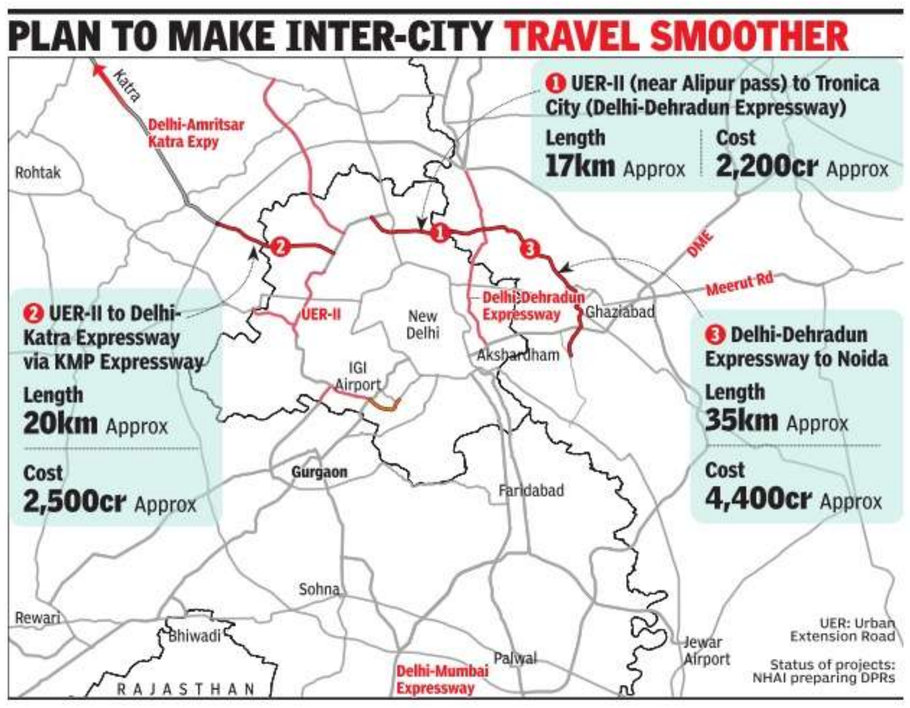
As per the plan, a new link road would be built (approx 20 km) connecting the Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) via KMP expressway to Delhi-Katra expressway. This will provide direct and seamless connectivity for vehicles coming from Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab to Delhi-Mumbai expressway and IGI airport. The rough estimate for the project was around Rs 2,500 crore when seven BJP MPs from Delhi had submitted the proposals, before the assembly polls.

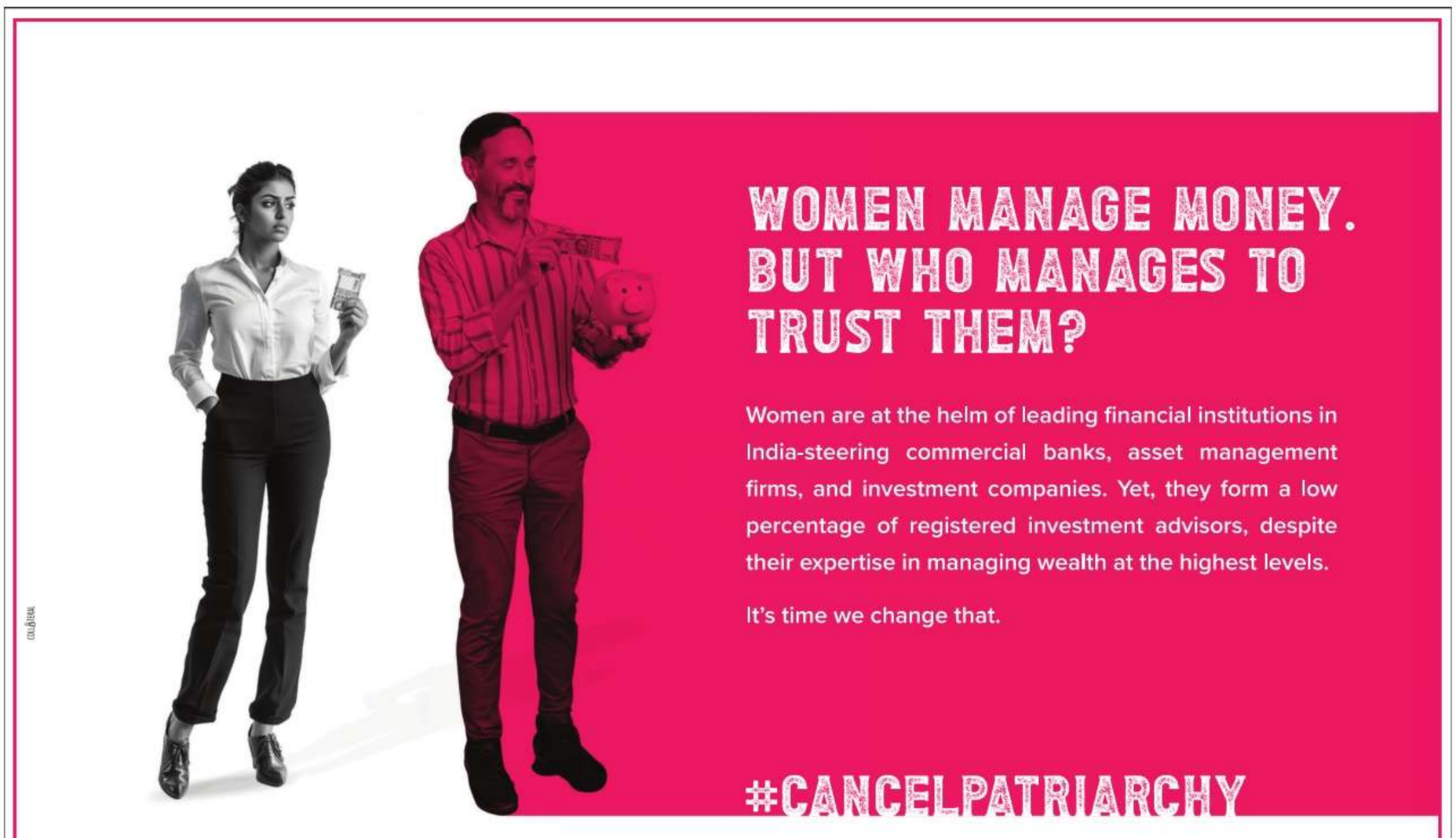
The second project is a proposed 17-km link between UER-II (near Alipur) to Tronica City via UER-II near the under construction Delhi-Dehradun expressway. The new road will make the travel smooth for vehicles coming from Rajasthan and Haryana to Dehradun. "This will also reduce vehicle load on the Ring Road," said an official.

This stretch will also provide connectivity for vehicles coming from Dehradun to IGI Airport via the UER-II and Dwarka Expressway. As per initial estimate, this road is likely to cut travel time by half.

The third major project, which will work as a bypass for east Delhi, the govt will build a 35 km corridor connecting Delhi-Dehradun Expressway with Noida. This road will ensure non-stop travel to Noida for north, north-west, and south-west Delhi.

PLAN TO MAKE INTER-CITY TRAVEL SMOOTHER

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Mercury drops below 30°C after nine days, but hotter days ahead

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The day temperature dipped below 30°C on Monday after a gap of nine days. The maximum temperature was recorded at 29.2°C, two degrees below normal, at Safdarjung, the city's base station. However, this was a temporary respite, as the temperature is predicted to exceed 31°C on Tuesday.

Delhiites have been experiencing hot weather as the mercury remained above normal for several days. Data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) shows that the maximum temperature stayed above 30°C consecutively from March 8 to 16.

Met officials attributed the temperature drop on Monday to the end of the western disturbance, which had led to a rise in wind speed. "Once an active western disturbance moves away, strong north-westerly winds follow, leading to a drop in temperature," said RK Jenamani, senior scientist at IMD. "After a western disturbance impacted the region from March 3 to 5, it was followed by strong winds, bringing the temperature down to 27-29°C across the region."

The maximum temperature reached 31.1°C on March 3 but dropped to 27.5°C on March 4. Similarly, the temperature rose to 31.1°C on March 8 and hit 36.2°C on March 14, marking the hottest day of the year. The temperature was recorded at 31.9°C on Sunday.

According to IMD, temperatures are expected to rise from Tuesday onward, with forecasts predicting a range of 36-38°C by March 20. IMD has predicted that the maximum temperature will remain between 31° and 33°C on Tuesday and 34 and 36°C on Wednesday. Strong surface winds at 10-20 km/h, occasionally gusting to 30 km/h, are expected over the next two days. By March 20, the minimum temperature is expected to range between 18° and 20°C.

Delhi's air quality, which had been in the satisfactory category for two days, deteriorated to moderate on Monday with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 108, up from 99 the previous day. The city's air quality is expected to remain in the moderate range until March 20, according to the air quality early warning system for Delhi, a forecasting body under the Union ministry of earth sciences.

In Gurgaon, Free Run For Yamuna's Enemy

Illegal Dyeing Units Continue To Operate Unchecked

Vinay Gupta

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER: Several illegal jeans dyeing units, which are operational in residential areas of Gurgaon, continue to dump toxic effluents that ultimately reach the Yamuna

Ipsita.Pati@timesofindia.com

Gurgaon: Between Haryana, Delhi and the Centre, all governed by BJP, it's a triple-engine sarkar. Now, here's something for all three to take note of, if BJP is serious about cleaning the Yamuna up in three years, as it promised in its Delhi election manifesto.

Despite NGT underscoring the pollution problem illegal dyeing units in Haryana are precipitating for the Yamuna, these units function in the open, without any effluent management system or fear of crackdown. **TOI** visited three such units, which are in the middle of residential areas, on Monday in sectors 103 and 104, which send copious loads of chemicals into Najafgarh drain, Yamuna's main polluter in Delhi. The dyeing units are tagged as 'red' industries, which means they are highly polluting and can function only within an industrial area.

The three units operate behind iron grilles, with rows of freshly dyed denims hung out to dry, despite appearing shut at first glance. Though wastewater is supposed to be treated before it is released into the river, the ground reality remains far from it. Yamuna is one of the most polluted rivers in the country as it carries untreated waste, industrial effluents, pesticide residues and other contaminants from NCR cities and neighbouring areas.

These units, locals said, mostly function at night. Residents often experience a heavy, pungent smell lingering through the late hours and early morning.

"Work in these units starts after sundown. We see people working late at night from our rooftops. During the day, we find rows of jeans hanging to be dried. The pungent smell gives us headaches," said Sushma Devi, a resident of Sector 104.

Ajay Singh, a resident of Dhanwapur (Sector 103), claimed illegal operations of these dyeing units would never stop even after stringent action taken by the pollution board as they shift base to other areas of the sectors. "These new sectors have very little surveillance, and as a result, illegal plants keep appearing frequently," he added.

Investigations have revealed that factories discharge effluents directly into drains, often lacking a 'consent to operate' certificate or a treatment plant. As a result, water released by these units contained high concentrations of ammonia and phosphate compounds, which harm aquatic life and contaminate groundwater.

A pollution board official, when contacted by **TOI**, said, "We have been taking action on these illegal units regularly, and even imposed environmental compensation (EC) on several of them as well. This is a major concern, and we will take further action."

Varun Gulati, an environmental activist, highlighted lack of proper treatment facilities in the dyeing units. "The dyeing plants haven't installed effluent treatment plants (ETPs) or any other anti-pollution devices. They release untreated effluents in the open areas or into drains, which finally flow into the Yamuna," he said.

In Jan 2022, NGT had instructed four districts in Haryana — Gurgaon, Sonipat, Faridabad and Jhajjar — to investigate dyeing units following a petition on water contamination in residential areas. The proceedings are still on. After the tribunal's directive, the authorities have identified affected areas in each district. The Yamuna continues to be severely polluted, primarily due to industrial discharge. A Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) assessment from March-Dec 2021 revealed that Panipat was the primary source of ammoniacal nitrogen in the river, with Gurgaon contributing 25.2%, Faridabad 15%, and Sonipat 10%.

Labourer (25) electrocuted in Mangolpuri

Times News Network

New Delhi: A 25-year-old labourer lost his life due to an electric shock while working at a residence in west Delhi's Mangolpuri on Sunday.

The incident sparked outrage among fellow workers, who took to the streets in protest, demanding accountability and better safety measures.

The deceased was identified as Anuj Kumar from Bihar.

According to police, a report was received from a hospital regarding Anuj being brought in dead following the electric shock in a house at Mangolpuri.

A crime team was dispatched to inspect the scene and document evidence.

"An eyewitness, identified as Joginder, confirmed that the tragedy resulted from negligence on the part of the house owner, who failed to implement proper safety precautions. In response, legal action has been initiated against the responsible party," a senior police officer said. Further investigation is underway.

ПЛЕЧОМ К ПЛЕЧУ
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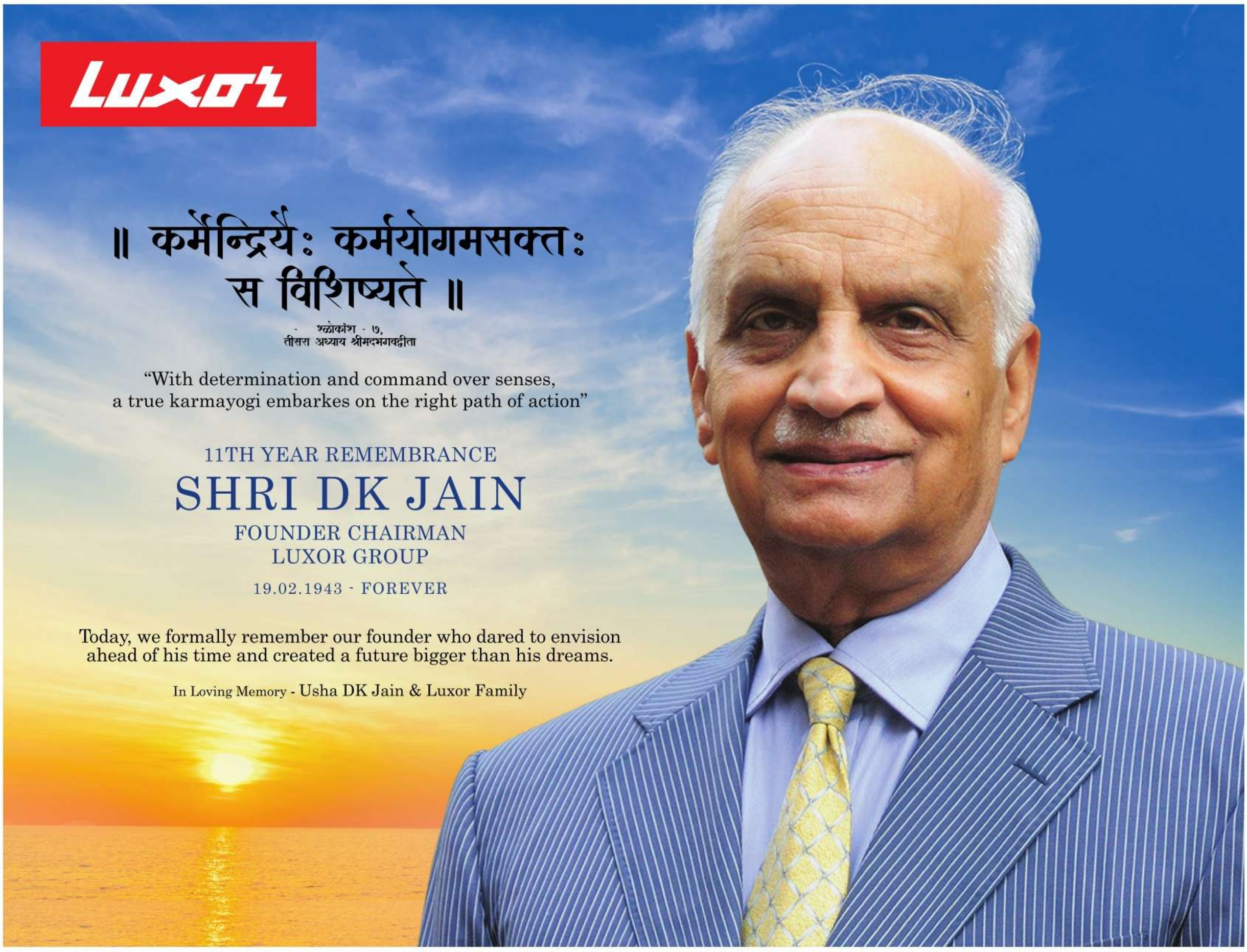
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VIP Visit Stalls Traffic, Commuters Sore

Peak-Hour Traffic In Central Delhi Takes A Hit With People Scrambling To Get Out Of The Chakravyuha

Ishita.Jairath@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: On Monday morning, around 10:30 am, cab driver Uday Singh was caught in the peak-hour traffic. "*Baal baal bach gaya roadblock se*," he told his next passenger in Noida after having narrowly escaped the barricades that blocked traffic on Vikas Marg, up to Laxmi Nagar. He was reluctant to return to ITO, uncertain what the next trip had in store for him.

Like him, when most people were starting their day – opening their shops or commuting to their workplaces after a long weekend – much of central Delhi came to a halt due to what is a recurring pattern of disruption now due to VIP movement. This time, it was New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon visiting Rajghat to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

Having received no traffic advisory or warning on social media, many were left scrambling for alternative routes, forced to take detours, make U-turns or even park their vehicles on the spot and walk over long distances. This was the second such traffic disruption in just over a fortnight. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen's visit to Rajghat had similarly disrupted normal life in the area.

People vented their ire on social media. One person who claimed to have been stuck in traffic for more than an hour, exclaimed: "Ridiculous! Feel sorry for the patient in the ambulance who was stuck with us." Another commuter said, "Which VVIP is coming to ITO? The police have stopped traffic. Vikas Marg and Outer Ring Road are jammed. When will this VIP culture end?"

Many people agreed that restrictions are needed due to security reasons and the traffic police act on orders but regretted that it was happening too often and without any concern for the harassed commuter.

"ITO seems to have become the ground zero for such disruptions," said S Chakraborty, who was driving towards Noida. "VIP visits have become frequent with party offices located in the area, not to forget that Bharat Mandapam is now a popular venue for official and other functions. Mathura Road is anyway choked with cars parked randomly on the roadside. The common man doesn't have the right of way. The sheer unpredictability of the traffic situation here causes anxiety to the road user," he said, sounding exasperated.

The VIP movement was scheduled to happen at 11:20 am but the preparations had begun much earlier. Traffic on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Vikas Marg, Outer Ring Road and many other roads in the vicinity was affected. The barricading led to chaos as commuters were caught off guard and tried desperately to find a way out.

Street vendors and small restaurants in the area lost a few hours of business and cab drivers some trips. It doesn't take much imagination to gauge that people headed for hospitals and railway stations were also affected quite badly. If it had been just an hour later, school children too would have been caught in the gridlock.

A senior traffic official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said advisories cannot be issued due to safety and logistical reasons. "Traffic police abide by the instructions it gets which is to cause minimum inconvenience to people and manage traffic flow. Sometimes, when vehicular movement is higher, minor inconveniences can happen, but that is rare. We follow the standard protocol, allowing light vehicles to pass until 10 minutes before the VIP movement and halting just for two-three minutes."

"Further, if any VIP or VVIP is visiting, there is always a purpose, mostly related to the country's well-being. Therefore, their security and safety are important."

S Velmurugan, chief scientist and head of the traffic engineering and safety division at CSIR-Central Road Research Institute called for a rethink, given the inconvenience caused to the common man. "The best way forward is the use of helipads," he suggested.

In fact, in 2010, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Vice-President Hamid Ansari and union home minister P Chidambaram had gone in a chopper to the same venue at New Police Lines ground to attend a Delhi Police function. However, security experts feel the risk involved in using a chopper is high as it can be targeted. "On the ground, we sanitise all routes," said an official. And people become collateral damage, one may add.

WHEN A VIP IS ON THE MOVE...

HOW CURBS ARE PUT IN PLACE

3 hrs before visit
Staff report for duty, signalling beginning of special arrangements

45 mins before visit
Bus entry to the area restricted, diversions made

30 mins before visit
Slow-moving vehicles like e-rickshaws or autos diverted

15 mins before visit
Manual control of traffic lights initiated

Total blockade is based on ground situation and alerts

(Data cited is a rough estimate)

WHAT IT COSTS COMMON MAN
Waiting time ranges from 5 mins for those first in line to one hour for those caught in gridlock

- Vendors and restaurants can't ply their business during that period
- Commuters stuck because public transport, including buses and last-mile connectivity vehicles, restricted
- Office-goers get delayed and there is substantial loss of working hours
- Cab drivers are severely hit
- Transport of goods affected
- Emergency response vehicles slow down

POTENTIAL SOLUTION

- Use of choppers for high-risk VIPs like heads of state. In one instance in 2010, then PM Manmohan Singh, Vice-President Hamid Ansari and home minister P Chidambaram flew down to the same venue at New Police Lines ground to attend a Delhi Police function
- Real-time traffic alerts, review of itinerary and timing protocol and avoiding excessive blockades can ease situation

AREA AFFECTED BY CURBS

- Traffic at two junctions before/ahead is controlled
- Worst hit is central Delhi since most VIPs head for Rajghat and other important venues here
- Disruption huge because during peak hours, i.e., 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM and 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on working days, the ITO intersection witnesses high traffic volume with a rough estimate suggesting 250,000 to 300,000 vehicles passing through
- The heaviest traffic flow is from Laxmi Nagar towards ITO in the morning and reverse in the evening. Even a 2-min diversion can cause a major gridlock

DELHI HC VOICED CONCERN

In 2015, Delhi High Court had sought responses from Centre, Delhi govt and Delhi Police on a PIL seeking better management of VIP movement in capital. The court said it was causing grave inconvenience to public

The petition had alleged that due to traffic snarls during VIP movement owing to the Oct 2015 India-Africa summit, two deliveries had happened inside a bus and an auto-rickshaw. Delhi Police denied this was due to VIP movement

In 2016, the court dealt with a petition seeking directions to authorities for creating a separate corridor to avoid blocking arterial roads during VIP movement. The court disposed of the petition, asking authorities to consider suggestions by petitioner

Student from Delhi drowns in Mussoorie school's pool

Anmol Jain | TNN

Mussoorie: A 13-year-old student from Delhi, studying at Mussoorie's Wynberg-Allen School, a prestigious boarding school, died on Monday, allegedly after drowning in the school's swimming pool. The Class VII student, an "accomplished swimmer," lost consciousness after completing two laps and fell into the pool around 5.30 am, Anil Chaudhary, a teacher and the school's public relations officer, told TOI. Police have also collected CCTV footage showing the student swimming in the pool and drowning after two laps.

"The swimming instructor and other students rescued the child and immediately took him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead," Chaudhary added. The incident occurred during morning swimming classes and a group of students were in the pool for the same.

The school has not disclosed any details about the student's parents except that he was originally from Delhi. Mussoorie's circle officer, Manoj Aswal, told **TOI** that a post-mortem has been conducted, but the details are awaited. "We have handed over the body to the parents, and no complaint has been filed by them," Aswal added.

Mussoorie has seven boarding schools, most of which have swimming pools and swimming is compulsory for both day students and boarders. Parents have raised concerns about the safety of students in these institutions after the incident.

10-year-old loses father before his eyes, family's dream of house back in Chhattisgarh shattered

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New Delhi: Holi colours still stained 10-year-old Aman's ears as he sat studying on Sunday for an upcoming exam. He decided to take a break and accompany his father, Panth Lal Chander (43), uncle Ramkishan (35) and cousin Shiv (25) to work — curious to see the hard labour that kept their family afloat.

Within moments, however, what began as a routine outing turned into a nightmare Aman is unlikely to forget.

The men were tasked with entering a manhole in New Friends Colony to cut a sewer pipe. First, Shiv and Ramkishan descended. But as soon as they began their work, toxic gases filled the chamber. Aman's last memory before chaos struck was Shiv's desperate cry for help. Panth didn't hesitate, climbing in to rescue them. But the fumes were overpowering.

One by one, they collapsed — Ramkishan, then Panth, then Shiv. Aman screamed and ran for help, his voice echoing through the streets. A crowd soon gathered. The child kept shouting, hoping someone — anyone — could save them.

"When both my uncles lost consciousness, I screamed as loudly as I could, putting all my strength into it, hoping Aman would hear me and get help immediately. After calling for help two or three times, I finally saw Aman's face peering into the hole through the darkness – screaming *'Bhaiya ruko'*. By then, I was already feeling weak. When the locals arrived with a rope and assistance, I was finally able to climb out," recalled Shiv.

He claimed that there was no safety gear or equipment that had been provided to them — only a rope they brought themselves.

Fire services were called, but by the time they were pulled out, it was too late. Panth was gone.

For years, the family had been working in Delhi, saving every rupee to return to their village in Chhattisgarh and build a home. Now, that dream is shattered.

"I never imagined my first flight would be to see my brother's body. For our family, flying is a dream — but this journey is nothing but loss," said Kishan, the 30-year-old brother of Panth and Ramkishan.

"We have a small farm back home. My brothers came to Delhi 15 years ago, working tirelessly, living in a cramped jhuggi just to send their children to school and save for a better future. Every rupee they earned went back home, building towards a dream of a house for all of us. That dream has been crushed. They slaved away, hoping for stability, only to lose everything in a moment — all because they weren't given basic safety," he added.

Panth is survived by his wife, four daughters, aged 25, 20, 17 and 14, and 10-year-old Aman. Ramkishan, who has a 30-year-old wife and two children, is battling for his life in the ICU.

The family, Kishan said, had been preparing for the wedding of Panth's daughter Manisha. "Both my brothers were looking forward to it. We were saving for the ceremony, but the young girl has lost her father. None of us can begin to cope with this loss."

Photo: Rajesh Mehta

SEWER DEATHS: NUMBERS KEEP PILING UP

Tragedy strikes on March 16

- A 43-year-old man died and another was left critically injured after three workers entered a **manhole** while engaged in DJB work in **New Friends Colony**
- The crisis came to light when a child's cries near the sewer opening alerted nearby residents
- A crowd quickly gathered and managed to pull out one person, Shiv Das, potentially saving his life
- Emergency services extracted two others from the sewer
- Panth Lal Chander was declared dead on arrival at the hospital, while Ramkishan Chander remains unconscious and in critical condition

Past incidents

2025
Feb | Two sanitation workers died and one was injured while cleaning a sewage tank in Narela
2024
Nov | A 25-year-old man died while cleaning a drain in Anand Vihar
Oct | Two workers died while another fell unconscious after they inhaled toxic gases while cleaning a sewer line at a construction site in Pillanji village in south Delhi
May | A 32-year-old man died and another was injured after they entered a sewer to clean it at a mall in Rohini
Feb | Two men died due to asphyxiation while they were trying to retrieve metallic objects from a sewer in Keshav Puram
2023
Sept | Two men were found dead in a sewer near Mathura Road
2022
Two people died of suffocation while cleaning a sewer in Bakkarwala
2018
A 28-year-old man died while cleaning a DJB sewer pit in Dabri

We started choking as toxic fumes filled the air: Survivor

▶Continued from P1

Upon receiving the call, the investigating officer arrived at the scene and discovered that the victims had already been shifted to AIIMS Trauma Centre by the PCR where Panth Lal Chander (43) was declared dead and another worker, Ramkishan Chander (35), remains unconscious and in critical condition. The third worker who went inside, Shiv Das, was rescued safely," DCP (southeast) Ravi Kumar Singh said.

The incident first came to light around 4pm when a child's cries near the manhole alerted nearby residents. Mahendra (29), who was nearby, said, "I was in the area for work when I saw a large crowd gathered around a manhole, with a child screaming for help. Locals had already called police and Delhi Fire Services, who were on their way. The scene was chaotic, and when I enquired, I learned what had happened. The hole was at least 12 feet deep, so no one dared to enter, waiting instead for emergency responders to arrive."

Shiv Das told **TOI**, "Ramkishan and I were the first to go down to cut a sewer pipe inside the manhole. Initially, everything seemed fine, but the moment we cut the pipe, toxic fumes filled the air, and we started choking. Ramkishan was the first to faint. I called for help, and that's when Panth came down. The gases were too much for him — he collapsed instantly, falling from a height."

"I panicked and screamed for help, telling Aman, Panth's 10-year-old son, to get assistance. At that moment, I was still conscious. The next thing I remember is being pulled out by people — I barely recall anything; it's all a blur," Das said.

Police have registered a case under Section 105 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of BNS and Sections 7 (prohibition of persons from engagement or employment for hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks) and 9 (Penalty for contravention of section 7) of the Manual Scavenging Act as investigation continues.

DJB didn't respond to queries on the matter.

Before this, on Feb 21, two sanitation workers died and another was injured while cleaning a sewage tank in the Narela area.

Rajesh Mehta

(From top left) Panth Lal's brother Kishan, survivor Shiv Das and Aman who called for help; (above) critically injured Ramkishan

SHIV DAS SAYS

Ramkishan and I were the first to go down to cut a pipe inside the manhole... Ramkishan was the first to faint. I called for help, and that's when Panth came down. He collapsed instantly

Health minister pays surprise visit to Sanjay Gandhi Hosp

Times News Network

New Delhi: Health minister Dr Pankaj Kumar Singh directed the hospital administration of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Mangolpuri, to enhance emergency services so that patients get prompt medical attention. The minister, who conducted a surprise inspection at the hospital on Monday, emphasised the need for healthcare workers to maintain a caring approach towards patients.

During his visit, the minister evaluated the hospital's operations, including doctor availability, bed capacity, emergency facilities, and patient care standards. The minister's inspection included visits to the emergency ward and interactions with patients to understand their issues. He consulted with hospital staff regarding medical equipment and resources, while directing improvements in emergency services.

Pankaj Kumar Singh

While reviewing the patient admission register across wards to evaluate the facilities, the minister interacted with the patients and checked on their treatment progress. The minister stressed on the significance of delivering professional healthcare with compassion. "The primary goal of the Delhi govt is to provide top-quality healthcare services to its citizens. That's why I will continue to conduct surprise inspections to ensure hospitals are functioning efficiently," he said.

Promising to address healthcare facility challenges, the minister assured the Delhi govt's complete support to medical professionals. The minister's directives during the visit included improving emergency response mechanisms, ensuring medicine availability, and upgrading patient care standards.

He also instructed authorities to minimise unnecessary patient referrals to other hospitals. "Our aim is to provide affordable, accessible, and high-quality healthcare services to every Delhi resident. Under the leadership of PM Modi, we are committed to transforming Delhi's healthcare infrastructure. Within the next 100 days, we will fulfil the promises made to the people of Delhi." Dr Singh said.

Previously, the health minister also conducted an unannounced inspection at Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital in Rohini to assess their medical services.

Fix issues in time-bound manner or face action, Verma directs officials

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: BJP minister Parvesh Verma has warned officials they would "face consequences" if they failed to resolve matters raised by their area representatives in a timely manner.

During a meeting on Monday, several MLAs presented issues related to their constituencies and the departments concerned were given immediate instructions for resolution, a source said. MLAs from 12 constituencies of east, west and northwest Delhi were present at the meet.

"PWD, DJB and irrigation and flood control department officials from the zones where the constituencies are located were present too, ensuring a localised approach to problem-solving," the source added.

In a statement, Verma said, "For years, no work was done because there was no intent. The situation worsened to the point where we now need to act on a war footing to provide relief to the people of Delhi."

"Concrete steps are being taken to repair roads, clean sewers and clear drains. Our priority is development, and within the next 100 days, the people of Delhi will see visible change. We will make every effort to resolve as many constituency issues as possible. BJP govt does not just make promises; we work to serve the people," the minister added.

The initiative, Verma stressed, marked a significant step toward "strengthening the city's infrastructure".

Among the key issues discussed in the meeting were repairs of roads and drains, sewer cleaning and drainage management, flooding and waterlogging, action against encroachments, and speeding up pending development projects.

"Many MLAs flagged dirty water being supplied in several pockets and raised the issues of road repairs, waterlogging and sewer cleaning. The minister asked the officials to ensure sewers are cleaned at the earliest," said the source.

The meeting saw discussions on the issues of several constituencies, including Trilokpuri, Patparganj, Laxmi Nagar (east zone), Mundka, Nangloi Jat, Moti Nagar, Madipur (west zone), Manglapuri, Shakarpur, Kirari (northwest zone), among others.

A BJP MLA who was present at the meeting said, "One of the main reasons that people voted out AAP govt was because of the poor condition of roads, drainage problems and dirty water." The top priority for BJP govt before the onset of peak summer was to improve the situation to the maximum extent possible, he added.

During the meeting, several MLAs presented issues related to their constituencies

Panel to oversee use of treated sewage water

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New Delhi: Delhi govt has set up a high-level 'water resource recovery cell' (WRRC) to monitor the performance of urban water treatment plants across the city and ensure effective utilisation of treated sewage water for various purposes.

Led by the additional chief secretary of the urban development department, the nine-member committee comprises top bureaucrats heading the irrigation and flood control, industries, and power departments. It also includes the commissioner of MCD, secretary of NDMC, CEO of Delhi Cantonment Board, member secretary of Delhi Pollution Control Committee and CEO of DJB.

Formed under central govt's 'Jal Hi Amrit' initiative — a part of Atal Mission for Urban Transformation and Rejuvenation (AMRUT) 2.0 — WRRC will share its report every three months with the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs.

The 'Jal Hi Amrit' programme aims to incentivise states and union territories to ensure the optimal functioning of used water treatment plants (UWTPs). According to officials, these plants must consistently meet environmental standards while producing recyclable treated water. As part of this initiative, UWTPs will be awarded clean water credits through a star rating system to urban local bodies and parastatal agencies based on a comprehensive evaluation process.

The initiative also focuses on enhancing the skills of UWTP operators and officials of the urban local bodies. Through customised capacity-building programmes, it aims to equip these personnel with the knowledge and expertise needed to manage the facilities efficiently and consistently meet discharge standards. Officials said the WRRC chairman may also co-opt experts from academic institutions, think tanks, and even the private sector, to assist in the initiative.

According to officials, WRRC will review and approve proposals from urban local bodies and parastatals for incentive utilisation, monitor the performance of incentivised UWTPs, ensure compliance with environmental standards and conduct periodic field visits to assess the quality of treated water and biosolids. It will also organise capacity-building programmes for UWTP operators and officials in collaboration with technical partners and promote awareness on reusing treated water and biosolids management.

In Daylight Robbery, Armed Assailants Storm Retired DU Prof's NW Delhi Home

Flee In His Car, Abandon It Later; Jewellery Worth ₹40 Lakh And ₹1.5 Lakh In Cash Stolen

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Armed assailants stormed the northwest Delhi home of a retired Delhi University professor in Ashok Vihar on Monday, holding him, his wife and maid captive at gunpoint while ransacking the house. The miscreants, who arrived in an autorickshaw, tied up the victims in separate rooms and made off with gold and silver jewellery worth at least Rs 40 lakh plus Rs 1.5 lakh in cash. They fled in the professor's car, which was later found abandoned.

The brazen daylight robbery has left police scrambling, with commissioner Sanjay Arora under pressure to bring the perpetrators to book at the earliest. The area has been beset by crime. Two weeks ago, armed men shot dead an accountant in full public view during a robbery bid there, while a software engineer was shot at barely a kilometre away.

The investigators said they were working to piece together the events surrounding the robbery, poring over CCTV footage and interrogating witnesses. Six teams under DCP Bhisham Singh are working to solve the case. The suspects have been captured by two CCTV cameras, sources said.

Professor O P Agarwal and his wife, Lalita, live on the first floor of a house in G Block. Their son lives in Mumbai, while one daughter lives in America and the other in Rohini.

According to police, the robbers entered the house around 10am when the main gate was open. The maid, who was hired five months ago from Wazirpur JJ Colony, was in the house at the time. The intruders, some of them armed with guns, threatened to shoot the victims if they made a ruckus. They then tied up the three individuals' hands and feet, stuffed cloth in their mouths and locked them in separate rooms. Lalita apparently resisted and was thrashed by the robbers.

After ransacking the house, the robbers also grabbed the jewellery worn by the couple. After around 35-40 minutes, they left in the Agarwal's i10 car parked downstairs.

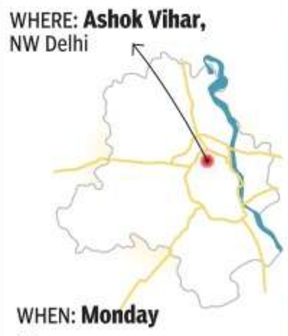
Agarwal managed to free himself and searched for his phone but found it missing. He freed the others and alerted the neighbours who in turn called the cops. The Agarwals were shaken by the robbery and needed medical aid and counselling.

Policemen reached the crime spot with forensic experts. Police later found the professor's car abandoned in Wazirpur JJ Colony, along with the missing phone. The cops said on Monday that they had registered a case under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The investigators are also questioning the maid, who the cops suspect could be involved in the crime. Police are reviewing CCTV footage from nearby cameras to identify the miscreants and have also questioned the couple for information about the incident. The suspects, the cops said, seemed aware of the house's topography and the number of people in the house, indicating an insider hand.

The fact that the assailants were able to gain entry into the professor's home, hold the occupants captive and escape with valuables without being detected has raised concerns about the level of security in the area. "We're all shaken by what happened," said a neighbourhood resident. "I've lived in this colony for years and never thought something like this could happen here. The thought of armed men roaming our streets and breaking into homes is terrifying."

FAMILY MEMBERS TIED UP IN DIFFERENT ROOMS

WHERE: **Ashok Vihar,** NW Delhi



WHEN: **Monday 10am**

Professor's house at Ashok Vihar

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. Armed assailants barged into northwest Delhi home of a retired Delhi University professor
2. The assailants held the professor, his wife and their help captive at gunpoint. The family lives on first floor
3. The miscreants ransacked the house, tying up the victims in separate rooms
4. They made off with gold and silver jewellery worth at least Rs 40 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh in cash
5. The assailants also fled with the professor's car parked downstairs

THE INVESTIGATION

Car found abandoned in Wazirpur JJ Colony	Police are reviewing CCTV footage and interviewing witnesses
The help is being questioned, as police suspect she may have been involved	Nine teams under DCP formed to crack the case

Images: AI

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Uniform signage, display: City's ration shops will get new look

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi govt wants to strengthen the visual recognition and distinctiveness of fair price shops through a comprehensive branding initiative. The project involves implementing uniform signage, banners and display boards across all these outlets to improve public understanding and awareness about various services available at them through enhanced visual communication.

The decision was taken on Monday in a meeting chaired by food and supplies minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa. During the review meeting, department officials made a presentation regarding the functioning and performance of the department. Sirsa was also informed about the e-KYC implementation for ration card holders.

The Mera e-KYC mobile app has been successfully rolled out, enabling beneficiaries to complete their e-KYC verification remotely, said govt. "This move is aimed at streamlining the rationing process and improving beneficiary authentication," it added.

Department officials also told the minister about efforts being made to promote e-KYC among the beneficiaries, and approximately 1.9 lakh e-KYCs were already done.

Sirsa was also informed about the ongoing work for the modernisation of the public distribution system under the SMART-PDS scheme. This initiative will utilise technology to standardise operations, integrate various govt bodies and implement data analytics to improve decision-making. The modernisation of PDS will significantly enhance the system's efficiency and transparency, govt said.

Sirsa said, "During the tough times of the Covid pandemic, Prime Minister Modi-led govt provided double ration supplies under PMGKY to support those facing hardships. This was a crucial step to ensure that no one went hungry during those difficult times."

He added, "BJP govt has always been committed to ensure that no eligible ration beneficiary in the capital is deprived of their rightful benefits. We continue to work tirelessly to improve the system and make it more accessible for everyone."

'Homebuyers made to suffer for a decade'

▶Continued from P1

On Feb 21, the apex court had stayed NCLAT's Dec 12 order asking NBCC to take over unfinished projects of Supertech

Why did you (Noida Authority) create such a framework for giving land which was wholly in favour of realtors? Because of this, thousands of homebuyers suffered for more than a decade," the bench said and warned that it was considering setting up a SIT to fix accountability on officials responsible for this mess.

On Feb 21, the apex court had stayed NCLAT's Dec 12 order asking NBCC to take over unfinished projects of Supertech, where an estimated 27,000 homebuyers had invested their money. However, Supreme Court had allowed IBC proceedings to continue. All petitions challenging NCLAT's Dec 12 decision are scheduled to be heard by the apex court in the first week of April.

In its appeal, Noida said, "NCLAT has completely misdirected itself by over-stepping its statutory jurisdiction and permitted NBCC to undertake the balance projects of the corporate debtor, virtually short-circuiting the insolvency resolution framework envisaged under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code."

It said NCLAT failed to consider that Noida is a statutory authority tasked with developing the notified area into a planned and integrated urban township and its resources are generated from allotment of land, adding that the law bars permission for construction and occupancy certificate on land allotted to realtors unless the dues are cleared.

Noida said if the resolution process went through, then the successful resolution applicant would have to pay the land arrears of Noida and money owed by Supertech to banks. If NBCC took over, all these huge dues, payable by the SRA, would remain unpaid, it said.

Riots probe status: Court pulls up police

New Delhi: A Delhi court pulled up Delhi Police for not providing the status of the probe in the 2020 Delhi riots case, two months after the court refused to frame charges against five persons.

The court of Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala on March 12 observed, "It is painful to see that despite the direction of DCP (northeast), no one has appeared before the court today to apprise the status of further investigation."

The five accused in the case, identified as Komal Mishra, Gaurav, Golu, Azhar, and Mohammad Arif, are accused of setting ablaze various shops and vehicles in different areas of northeast Delhi during the communal carnage, based on 21 complaints which were eventually clubbed into a single FIR lodged at Dayalpur police station.

They were booked under IPC sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 435 (mischief by fire), and 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon). TNN

PWD issues fresh norms for desilting large drains

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New Delhi: Public Works Department (PWD) on Monday issued fresh guidelines for desilting stormwater drains along roads. The move came a day after chief minister Rekha Gupta and PWD minister Parvesh Verma reviewed desilting work at large drains, including Kushak, Barapullah and Sunehri Bagh.

According to sources, a high-level meeting of the department was held last week during which several changes in the monitoring of projects related to road strengthening, horticulture, footpath repair and drain desilting were discussed and approved for implementation. PWD will now monitor weekly progress reports for each of these sectors.

Every year, urban flooding in the city during the monsoon season has been a major embarrassment for the party in power, and the new BJP govt is looking to avoid that by prioritising road repairs and other PWD-related work.

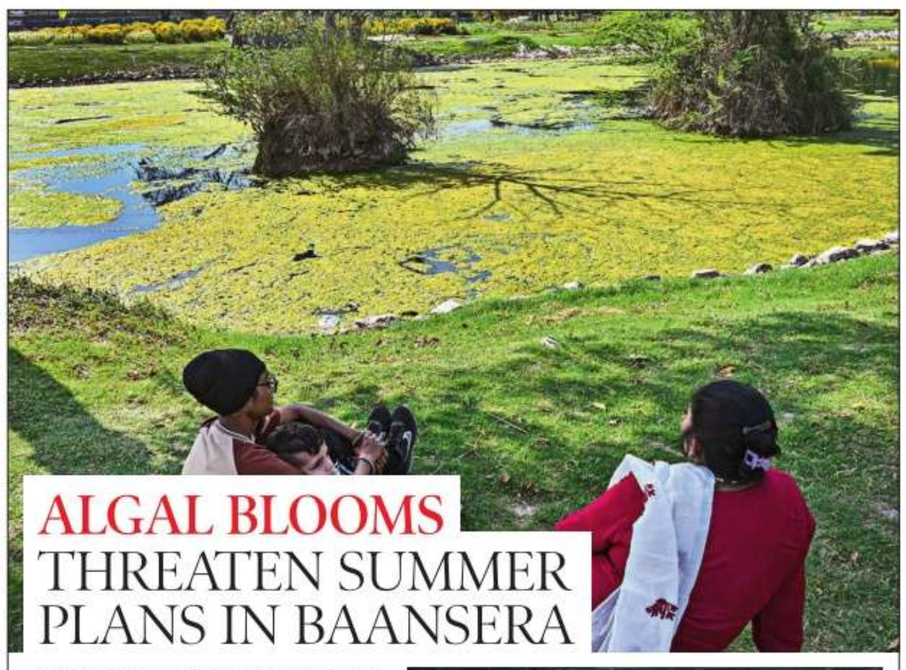
As per the fresh norms, the department will repair, number and level all manhole covers over the drains. Often, broken and missing manhole covers have led to dangerous accidents and overflowing of silt and other wastewater onto the streets. Technically, these drains are supposed to only carry excess rainwater from the roads to larger drains, but there are many inter-mixing points where the sewage gets mixed. Agencies are trying to address this issue.

The latest action plan for desilting also involves cleaning and maintaining bell mouths that open to drains. Usually, during desilting work, the waste is taken out of drains and kept on the side to dry for two days before being lifted. However, sometimes, this silt ends up back in the drain and clogs the bell mouths, causing problems when it rains.

To fix accountability and minimise waterlogging woes in the city, PWD had decided last year to award long-term contracts — at least for a period of two years — for desilting of drains. Thus, different zones would carry out desilting only twice a year — before and during the monsoon season.

PWD's action plan states that in case of an accident, such as a person falling into a drain, the cost of compensation will be borne by the contractor responsible for desilting. In the past year, several incidents were reported of people falling into drains, resulting in injuries and even deaths.

According to new norms, all the permanent pump house stations will be checked and sump (underground pit) cleaning work will be included in the desilting contracts.



ALGAL BLOOMS THREATEN SUMMER PLANS IN BAANSERA

Text & Photos: **Anindya Chattopadhyay**

Amid renewed efforts to revive the Yamuna, poor upkeep has blurred the lines between restored waterbodies and parks within Baansera, Delhi's first bamboo-themed park. As summer approaches, people look forward to leisure activities in the neighbourhood, but excessive algal growth could hamper their plans. These blooms create unfavourable conditions by reducing oxygen levels, putting aquatic organisms at risk and potentially leading to oxygen-deficient areas. When asked by **TOI**, DDA put the ball in DJB's court. An official said: "The waterbodies at Baansera receive water from DJB's STP plant, which contains significant BOD (biological oxygen demand) & COD (chemical oxygen demand). These promote the growth of algae. To counter this issue, regular cleaning of waterbodies is done by DDA. However, due to high level of eutrophication, the lake water needs to be dried up and fresh water needs to be filled. We have also written to DJB regarding the water quality." DJB didn't respond to **TOI**'s queries.

Probe into food poisoning reveals minor was raped

Avishek.Dubey@timesofindia.com

Ghaziabad: A day before Holi, a family reported a seven-year-old girl's death to police, and her neighbour was arrested.

The allegation was that the girl had eaten 'kadhi' made by the neighbour, which made her so sick that she never recovered. Shanti Devi, who lives in the Loni border area, was taken into custody and charged under Section 105 of BNS (culpable homicide not amounting to murder).

Police sent the seven-year-old's body for an autopsy to determine the cause of death. Was it food poisoning?

The report has thrown up answers far more terrible. According to the autopsy, the seven-year-old was sexually assaulted and died of strangulation. With the investigation turning on its head, the complaint itself became the centre of the probe.

Yes, Shanti Devi had indeed cooked and sent over 'kadhi', but all other claims – of the seven-year-old and six of her family members getting diarrhoea after eating it, and the girl dying during treatment at GTB Hospital in Delhi – were found to be fake.

On Monday, the seven-year-old's father was arrested as the prime suspect of the rape and murder. The 52-year-old, who has five children, had put together a coverup plan using the other children to build an alibi. Police said he got himself and the other children checked at OPD of GTB, claiming a tummy infection. They were evaluated and sent home.

Ajay Kumar Singh, ACP of Ankur Vihar, told **TOI**, "The accused had submitted an application that he didn't want a postmortem of the girl at GTB Hospital, and we have evidence for the same. To frame his neighbour, he filed a complaint at Loni border police station and an FIR was registered against Shanti Devi. She was remanded in judicial custody."

Police will now file an application in court to release Shanti Devi. "On March 14, postmortem report revealed the child was raped and murdered. That same evening, her last rites were performed by the father. After that, he didn't return home. We arrested him near SRB school on Monday," the ACP said.

While questioning, the accused, police said, admitted to what he had done. "He said he was drunk. Around 3am on March 13, his five children and wife were sleeping in one room. He lifted his seven-year-old daughter from the bed and went into another room. He raped her. When she started crying, he strangled her. In the morning, around 7-8 am, he called a friend and told him that his daughter had fallen ill after eating kadhi. They took the minor on a motorcycle to a local clinic. The doctor at the clinic told the family to take her to a hospital. They took her to GTB, where doctors declared her brought dead," said Singh.

Police said the accused called his other children to the hospital after this and told them to feign sickness. "They were told to tell the doctors they had a stomach ache," said the ACP.

An FIR has been filed at Loni border police station.

Crompton

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3 die in road accidents in Ggn: Three people died in two separate accidents in Gurgaon on Sunday. A family from Delhi returning from a temple in Rajasthan met with an accident in Manesar on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway, in which one person died. While Dharambir succumbed to his injuries, others — including Rekha, Kavita, Sunil, Aarav, Ishwanti and Prakash Chand — were treated for severe injuries.
In another case, three youths travelling on a bike were hit by a tractor, resulting in two deaths. Taufiq and Mohin were de clared dead at Civil Hospital in Sohna and Saqib was referred to Gurgaon for head injury. TNN

HC Seeks Govt Stand On Commercial Ops From Hindon Airport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

DIAL argued that govt took the decision 'unilaterally and in undue haste' in Oct 2023 to start commercial flights from Hindon, without even giving it an opportunity of hearing

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Monday sought the govt's stand on a plea filed by Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), which operates IGI Airport, challenging the nod by authorities to begin commercial flights from the Hindon airportin Ghaziabad.

Justice Sachin Datta issued notice on the two petitions filed by DIAL and granted two weeks to the govt and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) to file their response.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the government, informed the court that over a hundred flights were scheduled to depart weekly from the "functional" Hindon airport, with tickets already sold, stressing that monopolisation of the airspace is not allowed.

Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, who represented DIAL, argued that the govt's decision to begin flight operations from an airport within an aerial distance of 150 kilometres of IGI airport is in violation of the policy and the "state support agreement" between them. He contended unless the IGI airport reached its saturation, there remains an obligation on the authorities to ensure no other airport is allowed to operate near it as it would make the former unviable.

DIAL in its plea argued that the govt took the decision "unilaterally and in undue haste" in Oct 2023 to start commercial flights from Hindon, without even giving an opportunity of hearing. Claiming that a defence aerodrome, such as Hindon, could not be considered an airport for civilian use, the plea said the govt failed to record any reason for necessitating use of the military airfield to operate commercial flights.

The petitioner said at present, the IGI airport was "far from reaching its saturation" and was further expanding to operate at a capacity of 109 million passengers per annum. The decision, it added, failed to consider that a new airport is already being developed at Jewar, Noida, which too is within 150 kilometres of the IGIA.

"The decision fails to consider that allowing Hindon Airforce Station to be used for scheduled commercial operations to cater to the same catchment area even before IGIA and the airport at Jewar reach their saturation capacity, would seriously impact the viability of IGIA," it submitted.

It would not only be detrimental to the existing airport, i.e., IGIA but also render the upcoming airport at Jewar, Noida and Hindon Airforce Station (if permitted to be developed into a new airport providing scheduled air transport services) unviable as it would result in three weak airports, with all competing and eating into the revenues of each other, the plea contended.

The petition said as per the state support agreement between the authorities and DIAL, the latter had the "right of first refusal" with respect to any second airport within the 150 kilometre radius of the IGI airport.

Katara case: SC's contempt notice to principal secy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday issued contempt notice to the principal secretary of Delhi's home department for not taking a decision on granting remission to Sukhdev Singh, a convict in the 2002 Nitish Katara murder case, despite assuring the court to do so within two weeks. Singh is serving a 20-year jail term without remission in the case.

A bench of Justices Abhay Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan took exception to Delhi govt for not honouring its words and asked the officer to be present in court through video conferencing.

The court noted that the govt had on March 3 assured the apex court to take a decision on remission plea within two weeks.

"A solemn statement on instructions of the state govt was recorded in the order. Now we are informed that the Sentence Review Board (SRB) is to consider the case of the petitioner today [Monday]. The state govt has not shown elementary courtesy of even making an explanation application for grant of extension of time. We therefore issue notice to the principal secretary of the home department of Delhi govt, calling upon him to show cause why action under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 should not be initiated against him. Notice of contempt is made returnable on March 28. We direct the secretary to remain present through VC," the bench said

The court had on March 3 deferred the hearing after govt sought two weeks' time. But the govt told the bench that the meeting of SRB was scheduled for March 17. "You don't even have the courtesy to apply for an extension of time. You make a solemn statement that you will decide within two weeks, and your Sentence Review Board has not considered it," the bench said.

29-year-old teacher ends her life over 'marital abuse'

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Ghaziabad: A 29-year-old woman who taught at a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Delhi was found dead at her house in Vasundhara on Sunday. In a final text she sent to her parents and brother on WhatsApp, Anvita Sharma wrote she could no longer bear taunts from her husband, "who found fault with everything I did", and described her in-laws as "a family that only knows how to take".

Anvita summed up her frustrations and agony in the last line of her text, the only one directly addressed to her husband. "I have prepared food, Gaurav Kaushik, please eat it," she wrote.

Kaushik, a doctor practising in Delhi, and his father Surendra Sharma were arrested after Anvita's family filed a complaint, accusing them of dowry harassment, police said on Monday. Kaushik, Sharma and his mother Manju were charged BNS sections 85 (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty), 80 (2) (punishment for dowry death), 115 (2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and sections of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Police said Manju is absconding.

Kaushik and Anvita got married on Dec 12, 2019 and have a four-year-old son. Anvita was a PGT fine arts teacher at the school, a job she had held since Oct 2019. "He married my job, not me," she wrote. "My husband wanted a beautiful, hard-working wife who also had a job. I did everything I could, but it was never enough. They wanted someone who would only focus on the in-laws, but my parents and brother were equally important to me. No mother-in-law could have taunted me as much as my husband did in the past five years. He found faults in everything I did," she added.

CM seeks suggestions from MPs on Budget

New Delhi: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta held a meeting with the Members of Parliament of Delhi to seek their suggestions for the upcoming budget of Delhi.

Gupta said the 'Viksit Delhi Budget 2025', which will be presented in the Delhi Assembly on March 25, will be a roadmap for a "bright future" for every citizen of Delhi. "Our aim is to deliver modern infrastructure, a clean environment, quality education, better health facilities, and new job opportunities through the budget," the CM said. The govt, in a statement, said that several key topics were discussed in the meeting, including the speedy completion of projects related to Delhi's roads, flyovers, and metro expansion; joint efforts by the central and state govts to prevent water pollution under the Yamuna cleaning campaign; expansion of green areas and promotion of electric vehicles; establishment of new schools and digital learning centres; modernisation of govt hospitals, among others. TNN

Irregularities in PhD admissions: DUSU prez

New Delhi: The Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) president, Ronak Khatri on Monday raised concerns over alleged irregularities in the university's PhD admission process, accusing the administration of granting admissions based on ideological affiliations rather than academic merit.

The allegations were refuted by Delhi University administration. In a press conference, Khatri claimed the university has admitted students without giving adequate weight to their National Eligibility Test (NET) scores. He alleged that admissions were primarily based on personal interviews, contrary to UGC guidelines that prescribe 70% weightage for the NET score and 30% for the interview.

"The university is granting PhD admissions based on personal interviews, instead of adhering to the prescribed weightage for the NET score, as per UGC guidelines," Khatri stated. "This is a clear violation of the UGC norms, and it appears that admissions are being influenced by ideological affiliations and financial considerations," he added.

He demanded that the university release the marks obtained by the candidates to verify whether the admissions were in line with UGC norms. Khatri has also called on the Union Ministry of Education to investigate the matter.

"We have not received any representation from the students' union on this issue. Admissions are conducted in full compliance with UGC norms," Haneet Gandhi, dean admissions, told **TOI**. TNN

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Abridged Tender Notice
e-Tenders are invited for NIT No. 61/Re-excavation of Pond/State Development Scheme/Jhargram Division/2024-25 within the jurisdiction of Jhargram Division in the District of Jhargram. Other detailed information/ downloading / uploading may be done from the website **www.wbtenders.gov.in** and are also available at Divisional Forest Office, Jhargram Division, Ghoradhara, Jhargram on any working days. Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Jhargram Division, Ghoradhara, P.O. : Jhargram, Dist. : Jhargram. ICA- T5814(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
ID-2025_PHED_820499_1 to 2 (Non JJM Work)
Electronic Notice Inviting Tender No. 27/WBPHED/EE/BD-I/2024-25. Last date of Documents download / sell closing date (Online) is on 04.04.2025 upto 04.00 PM. Date of opening of technical Proposals (Online) on 07.04.2025 at 11.30 AM. Further details will be available in our website: **www.wbtenders.gov.in** Sd/- Executive Engineer, Berhampore Division-I, PHE Dte. ICA- T5853(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited.
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No.116/WBTDCL OF 2024-25 (Technical) Tender ID- 2025_WBTDC_827508_1 to 2025_WBTDC_827508_5
WBTDCL invites e-Tender for the work: **"Comprehensive Annual Maintenance and servicing including gas charging, all types of spare parts for indoor, outdoor and pipe line of Different types of Air conditioning machine at different Tourism Property, under WBTDCL."** From the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies in similar works. **Start date & time of documents download: 17.03.2025-14:00 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission: 02.04.2025-16:00 Hrs.** Details are available in website: **www.wbtdcl.com/wbtenders.gov.in** Sd/- Superintending Engineer, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited. ICA- T5864(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
No. – 29/B.Ar.D. of 2024-25 is invited by the AE, B.Ar.D, PHE Dte. Details information about the tender will be available in the website – www.wbtenders.gov.in as well as in the office notice board. Sd/- AE, B.Ar.D, PHE Dte. ICA- T5852(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
No. WBPHED/EE/BMD/NieT 20 OF 2024-2025 Rate Quoted Notice inviting e-Tenders are invited by the EE, BMD, PHE Dte. Ailakundi, Bankura as per Tender Id. 2025_PHED_826898_1 to 9 Bid submission Starting Date is 25.03.2025 at 06.00 P.M Last date of uploading is 17.04.2025 upto 6.00 P.M. Details will be available at notice board & at website www.wbtenders.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Engineer Bankura Mechanical Division P.H.E.Dte. ICA- T5850(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
TENDER ID- 2025_PHED_827190_1 to 14 (Non JJM Work)
Electronic Notice Inviting Tender No. 28/WBPHED/EE/BD-I/2024-25. Last date of Documents download / sell closing date (Online) is on 07.04.2025 upto 01.00 PM. Date of opening of technical Proposals (Online) on 09.04.2025 at 01.30 PM. Further details will be available in our website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Berhampore Division-I, PHE Dte. ICA- T5855(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
e-N.I.T No- WBIW/EE/KIDIVISION/e-NIT-24(e)/2024-25 under Kakdwip Irrigation Division, Kakdwip, Online e-tender has been invited by the undersigned for 16 (Sixteen) no. of work. amount put to tender ranging from Rs. 2.04 Lakh to Rs. 48.10 lakh. Last date of submission of online bid 01.04.2025 upto 12:00 Hrs. All necessary details may be obtained from West Bengal Government e-tender portal wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, KID. ICA- T5821(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT is hereby invited by Assistant Engineer, Head Quarter, Howrah Division, P.H.E. Dtevide Ref: no WBPHED/AE(HQ)/HD/NIeT_06/2024-2025, MemoNo- 1394/HD, Dt:13/03/2025. Details will be available inthe website www.wbtenders.gov.in and wbphed.gov.in Last date of applicationis 02/04/2025. Sd/- for Assistant Engineer (HQ) Howrah Division, P.H.E. Dte ICA- T5849(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Jhargram Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. eNIT No. 11 of EE/JHD of 2024-2025 and ID: 2025_PHED_827419_1 to 2 for DIFFERENT TYPE OF WORKs in Jhargram District. Details will be available in the website **wbtenders.gov.in** The last date for submission of tender is 03.04.2025 upto 18:00 Hours. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Jhargram Division, PHE Dte. ICA- T5869(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Jhargram Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. eNIT No. 10 of EE/JHD of 2024-2025 and ID: 2025_PHED_827172_1 to 16 for DIFFERENT TYPE OF WORKs in Jhargram District. Details will be available in the website **wbtenders.gov.in** The last date for submission of tender is 25.03.2025 up to 18:00 Hours. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Jhargram Division, PHE Dte. ICA- T5868(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, PHE Dte. On behalf of Governor, West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/NIeT-101/AD/2024-2025 and Tender ID: 2025_PHED_826265_1 for operation and maintenance of distribution system and rising main pipeline for Mosat W/S scheme in Diamond Harbour-I Block under Diamond Harbour Sub-Division of Alipore Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website **wbtenders.gov.in** The last date for submission of tender is 26.03.2025 upto 03:00 P.M. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA- T5867(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED E-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender No. 73/DCF/URF/2024-25
The undersigned invites e-Tender from eligible contractors/suppliers Supplying different items at different park under Medinipur Range of URF Division. Details can be seen at **https://wbtenders.gov.in** Sd/- DCF, URF Division. ICA- T5823(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Notice Inviting E-Tender
E-Tender is invited vide NIT No. 04 of 2024-25(ES) for "Conversion (Electrical Installation works) of Rural SHCs to Su-Swasthya Kendras (HWCs), Hooghly" for detail information please visit the Website www.wbhealth.gov.in & www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- CMOH & Secretary, DH & FWS, Hooghly ICA- T5809(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, P.W.D. invites online e-tender for the work of - "Shyamnagar Feeder Road from 0.00 Km to 2.766 Km-Strengthening Work-under Barrackpore Division, P.W.Dte. Estimated Amount Rs. 6,96,86,889.00, NIeT No: WBPWD/SE/EC/NIeT-16/2024-2025, Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_827489_1. Bid Submission upload start date: 20.03.2025 from 15.00 Hours Bid Submission upload end date: 11.04.2025 upto 15.00 Hours. The details of NIeT and Tender document may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- SE, EC, PWD, GOVT. OF W.B. ICA- T5846(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited for the work under tender ID 2025_WBPWD_827405_1 For details please follow http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Asansol Electrical Division ICA- T5841(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
N.I.T NO- WBIW/EE/BNKID/eNIT-09/2024-25
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, e-Tender is invited by the undersigned for 3 (Three) nos. of works below Rs. 30 Lakh under Bankura Irrigation Division, I&W Dte., Online bid submission closing date:- 01.04.2025 till 17:30 Hours IST. Other details may be seen in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbiwd.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bankura Irrigation Division, Bankura. ICA- T5824(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is invited by The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Electrical Division Berhampore PHE Dte vide Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/MEDB/NieQ-48 OF 2024-25 and Tender ID: 2025_PHED_827475_1 to 2 Operation and Guarding of Gaseous Chlorination and Engaging chemist Bacteriologist Laboratory Assistant at Domkal Laboratory. Last date for Submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online): **26.03.2025 upto 10.00 A.M.** Dated of Opening technical proposal (online): **28.03.2025 after 4.00 P.M.** NB: All others of the above NIeQ will remain unchanged. All details can be seen from the website **http://wbtenders.gov.in** & **www.wbphed.gov.in** ICA- T5870(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NO. WBIW/EE/MED/e-NIT-04/2024-25 [Sl. No.-1 to 20]
The Executive Engineer, Mahananda Embankment Division, Green Park, Malda, I & W. Dte. on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal invites online tender from eligible & resourceful Contractors having requisite similar nature credential for 20(Twenty) nos. work against the said e-NIT. Last date and time of submission of Technical & Financial bid (online) - 25.03.2025 up to 15.30 Hrs. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.wbiwd.gov.in & URL https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahananda Embankment Division, Green, Malda. ICA- T5829(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, online e-Tenders are invited from bonafide agencies for the following eNIT. **eNIT No-WBIW/EE/WMD/NIT-21e/2024-25** For total 3(Three) Nos. of work and amount varying from Rs. 6.79 Lakh to Rs.29.84 Lakh. Bid submission start date : 18.03.2025 at 11.00 Hrs. Last date of bid submission 31.03.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs. Further details may be obtained from the office of Executive Engineer, West Midnapore Division or from the Departmental Website. **www.wbiwd.gov.in. http://etender.wb.nic.in (Direct Site)**
Sd/- (Uttam Hazra), Executive Engineer, West Midnapore Division , Midnapore, Paschim Medinipur. ICA- T5820(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-N.I.T No. WBIW/EE/BDD/ NIT-22(e)/2024-25
On behalf of the Governor, West Bengal, e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer Bidyadhari Drainage Division, from the eligible reliable, bonafide & resourceful contractors for 01 (One) no. Work amounting Rs 16.56 Lakh (approx). All necessary details may be had in Govt. website **www.wbiwd.gov.in** or **https://wbtenders.gov.in** Publishing date: 18.03.2025 on 17.00 hrs., Bid submission Start date: 18.03.2025 from 17.30 Hrs., Bid submission end date: 02.04.2025 till 12.00 Hrs. **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bidyadhari Drainage Division, Taki Road, Barasat, Kol-700124.** ICA- T5825(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, PWD, Kolkata South Division invites e-Tender vide-NIT No. EE/KSD/NIT 13E/2024 25 for the works:- (i) ITI Tollygunge- Development of drainage system along with adjacent pathway at the backside of Machine Shop and other allied works. (ii) West Bengal University of Animal Sciences Chakgaria Campus, Kolkata- Aquatic Animal Health Building- Repair work including face lifting and roof treatment. (iii) Officers Quarter Building at 8, Anial Roy Road kolkata-29--Repair work to both inside and outside Tender Id: (i)2025_WBPWD_827333_1 (ii)2025_WBPWD_827333_2 (iii)2025_WBPWD_827333_3 Estimated Amount : I) Rs.13,56,984.00 (ii) 23,28,307.00(iii) 7,69,855.00 Date of uploading of N.I.T. Documents (Online) (Publishing Date) (online) 18.03.2025 from 06:00 PM Technical & financial bid proposal Submission end date (Online)04.04.2025(for sl no I & ii)and 26.03.2025(for sl noiii) up to 1.00 P.M. Details of e-NIT and other documents may be downloaded from https://wbtenders.gov.in Corrigendum, if any will be published in the said departmental website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Kolkata South Division ICA- T5838(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE, P.W.D. Asansol Division invites online e-Tender for 02 nos. of Work: **1.** Construction of Shed and installation of Water tank in connection with requirements of RO plant for proposed 10 bedded Dialysis unit (PPP mode) at Asansol District Hospital Paschim Bardhaman. Project ID:-HF242531131S000. Estimated Amount: Rs. 6,01,251.00, Tender Id: 2025_PWD_827437_1. **2.** Emergent temporary protective work at ch. 459.160 km of Asansol - Barakar G.T. Road (Left Side) under Asansol Division, P.W.D. in the District of Paschim Bardhaman. Estimated Amount: Rs. 10,31,618.00, Tender Id: 2025_PWD_827437_2. eNIT No.: 30 of 2024-2025 of EE(ASN)PWD. For Sl. No.: 01. Bid submission start date (online): 17.03.2025at 09.00 IST. Bid submission closing date (online): 02.04.2025 at 09.00 IST. For Sl. No.: 02. Bid submission start date (online): 17.03.2025 at 09.00 IST. Bid submission closing date (online): 08.04.2025 at 09.00 IST. Corrigendum and addendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWD, ASANSOL DIVISION. ICA- T5848(3)/2025

मध्यप्रदेश स्टेट सिविल सप्लाईज कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
पंजीकृत कार्यालय : ब्लॉक नं.-1, तृतीय तल, पार्यावास भवन, भोपाल-462011
CIN - UI5411MP1974SGC001268, फोन नं. : 0755-2551276, फैक्स : 2550312, 2677847, ईपीबीएक्स नं. : 2674544, 2768002, वेबसाइट : www.mpscsc.nic.in, ई-मेल : mpscsc@bsnl.in
क्रमांक/कर एवं बैंकिंग/2025/1091 भोपाल, दिनांक : 17.03.2025

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

इस कार्पोरेशन द्वारा राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों/शेड्यूल्ड बैंकों/नाबार्ड/सहकारी बैंकों/सार्वजनिक वित्तीय संस्थानों से साख सीमा/शार्ट टर्म लॉइन ऑफ क्रेडिट आदि स्वरूपों में धनराशि उधार लेने हेतु ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा शर्तों इत्यादि की विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट **https://mptenders.gov.in** पर दिनांक 18.03.2025 से उपलब्ध है। निम्न कार्यक्रम अनुसार ऑनलाइन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

समय सारणी	मुख्य तिथियां व विवरण
ऑनलाइन निविदा वेबसाइट **https://mptenders.gov.in** पर नियत प्रारूप में जमा करने की प्रारंभ दिनांक एवं समय	18.03.2025 समय 11:30 प्रात:
ऑनलाइन निविदा वेबसाइट **https://mptenders.gov.in** पर नियत प्रारूप में क्रय/प्राप्त होने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय	09.04.2025 समय 11.30 प्रात:
ऑनलाइन निविदा वेबसाइट **https://mptenders.gov.in** पर नियत प्रारूप में जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक एवं समय	09.04.2025 समय दोपहर 1.00 बजे
ई-निविदा खोलने की दिनांक एवं समय	11.04.2025 समय दोपहर 1:00 बजे

निविदा दस्तावेज एवं निविदा प्रक्रिया ऑनलाइन भरने से संबंधित तकनीकि सहयोग व स्पष्टीकरण प्राप्त करने हेतु टोल फ्री नम्बर 0120 4001005, 0120 4001002 एवं 0120 4493395 पर सुबह 10:00 बजे से सायं 6:00 तक या ई-मेल आई.डी. **eproc@nic.in & https://mptenders. gov.in** पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।
म.प्र. माध्यम/119252/2025 **प्रबंध संचालक**

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-7 कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
का0 पता-ए-212, ब्लाक-ए, वेदव्यासपुरी, मेरठ - 250005
ई-मेल: cds.unit7@gmail.com
निविदा सूचना सं0 : 869 / E-Tender / 42 दिनांक : 17.03.2025

ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा **Upgradation of Trauma Centre of Level 2 to Level 1 (100 Bedded) at L.L.R.M. Medical College, District Meerut (U.P.)** के निर्माण अनुमानित लागत रू0 **3795.00** लाख (जी0एस0टी0 रहित एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सी0एण्ड डी0एस0 में यथोचित श्रेणी में भवन कार्य हेतु पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से **दिनांक 15.04.2025 के अपरान्ह 15:00 बजे तक** ई-निविदाए आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र **दिनांक 18.03.2025 से दिनांक 15.04.2025 के मध्य** उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की E-procurement वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in** से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा **दिनांक 15.04.2025 को अपरान्ह 16:30 बजे** सी0 एण्ड डी0एस0, यूनिट-07, उ0प्र0 जल निगम, मेरठ में निविदा खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रू0 **20000.00 + GST (18%) अतिरिक्त** देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट **www.cdsupjn.org** एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धिपत्र (Corrigendum) **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, **इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा।** निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाईट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE
DMF, Jhargram, under establishment of ADM & DL&LRO, Jhargram invites Quotation from C&AG empanelled list partnership Chartered Accounts Firms for conduct of Statutory Audit of Accounts of DMF, Jhargram for the FY 2017-18 to 2024-25.
Please visit: **https://jhargram.gov.in** for more information.
The period of submission of application: From 17.03.2025 to 02.04.2025 till 5:00 P.M.
District Magistrate & Collector Jhargram
Memo No. : 40(2)/Adv/JICA Date : 17.03.2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, P.W.D. invites online e-tender for the work of - "Providing Road Safety Measures as per recommendations of Road safety Audit by IIT Kharagpur and ARTO Barrackpore in different locations of Ghospara-Road and Barrackpore Barasat Road (SH-1) and Ghospara Jaguli Road under Barrackpore Division, PWD. Estimated Amount Rs. 1,90,37,589.00, NIeT No: WBPWD/SE/EC/NIeT-13/2024-2025, Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_824340_1. Bid Submission upload start date: 13.03.2025 from 15.00 Hours. Bid Submission upload end date: 04.04.2025 upto 15.00 Hours. The details of NIeT and Tender document may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- SE, EC, PWD, GOVT. OF W.B. ICA- T5847(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Government of West Bengal, Tamluk Division, Social Sector, P.W.Dte. NIe-Q No:- 03 of 2024-25 of the Executive Engineer, Tamluk Division, Social Sector, P.W.Directorate.
Sealed Quotation are hereby invited for and on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal for "Work of Pond liner over 2 Nos water bodies in front of Jagannath Dham Sanskriti Kendra at Digha in the Dist of Purba Medinipur." EMD fixed Rs. 25,000.00. The details can be obtained from the website http://wbtenders.gov.in Tender ID-2025_WBPWD_827513_1. Submission Start Date:- 21.03.2025 at 9.00 hours, End Date:- 04.04.2025 at 13.00 hours. Corrigendum or Addendum if issued will be published only through Website. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Tamluk Division, Social Sector, P.W.Dte. ICA- T5845(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Irrigation & Waterways Directorate
e-N.I.T No - WBIW/EE/CDOD/e-NIT-11/2024-25
e-Tender (online) is hereby invited by the undersigned for 4 (Four) nos. work of M/R to Bagbari wooden bridge, Karaidanga wooden bridge, Sluice gate of Lalkuthi & Bank protection of SWF channel for different place under CDOD, I &W Dte. amounting Rs. 2.25 Lakh to Rs 4.99 Lakh. Document Download start date is **18.03.2025 at 11.00 hrs,** Bid submission start date at **18.03.2025 at 11.00 hrs** & Bid submission end date is **25.03.2025 till 11.00 hrs.** For details please visit website **www.wbtenders.gov.in.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Calcutta Drainage Outfall Division, Jalasampad Bhawan, 6th Floor, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091. Tel.No.:033- 23217298 Email- eecdod@gmail.com ICA- T5822(2)/2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

Name of Work with its location	Annual Maintenance including supply and installation of must change materials/spares and scheduled maintenance of Tower Wagons of Delhi Division for the period of 03 years.				
E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time				09.04.2025 (15.00 hrs.)	
Approx. Cost of work	₹ 9,20,96,162.44/-	**Fund Allocation**	07041032	**Earnest Money Deposit**	₹ 6,10,500/-
E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	26.03.2025 (00.00 Hrs.) to 09.04.2025 (15.00 Hrs.)				
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen				**www.ireps.gov.in**	

E-Tender No.: 55-TRD-NDLS-2024-25 Dated 17.03.2025 824/2025
SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE

SANJAY GANDHI POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Raebareli Road, Lucknow-226014
Tele: 0522-2494094 e-mail:hrf@sgpgi.ac.in
Hospital Revolving Fund

e-Tender Notice
e-Bids are invited in Two bid system **(1) Technical Bid** and **(2) Price Bid** from reputed & genuine Manufacturers/Importers Firms only, for executing a rate contract of **"Supply of CSSD Products for the Department of Central Sterile Supply Department"** for a period of two years vide-tender No. **PGI/HRF/CSSD-850/2025-26** The detailed terms and conditions such as Tender Fees & EMD of the NIT are available in the e-Bid document uploaded on e-tender portal ***http://etender.up.nic.in*** and website of the Institute **www.sgpgims.org.in w.e.f. 20.03.2025.** The offer will be accepted Online only on e-tender portal with terms & conditions as mentioned in tender document.
- Last date & time of submission of e-bid: **19.04.2025 upto 1600 HRS**
- Date & Time for opening of e-bid: **21.04.2025 at 1200 HRS**

The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any offer partially or fully without assigning any reason.
ADVT.No.: I/38/HRF/2024-25 **Director**

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BkTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref No.: WBPDCL /Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-3288 Dated: 10.03.2025
NIT No. : WBPDCL /BkTPS/OT/E3605/24-25
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager - BkTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for **"Procurement of LOCO and DOZER related items under CHE dept. at BkTPS". Tender Document Download Start Date:** 11.03.2025 at 13.00 hrs. **Bid Submission End Date:** 01.04.2025 at 16:00 hrs. **Contact Person:** Mr. Sumit Dasgupta, Dy. General Manager, HOD (Purchase Deptt.), BkTPS, WBPDCL. **Mobile:** 8336903911. **E-mail:** s.dasgupta@wbpdcl.co.in/purchase_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: **https://wbtenders.gov.in** ICA- T5862(2)/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BkTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref No.: WBPDCL /Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-3295 Dated: 12.03.2025
NIT No. : WBPDCL /BKTPP/NIT/E3633/24-25
E- Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by General Manager - BkTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for **"Annual Contract for supply of Skilled, Semi-skilled and Un-skilled Manpower for miscellaneous work at BkTPP for two years". Tender Document Download Start Date:** 17.03.2025 at 09:00 AM. **Bid Submission End Date:** 07.04.2025 at 03:00 PM. **Contact Person:** Mr. Indranil Chakroborty, HOD - CC, BkTPP, WBPDCL. **Mobile:** 8373055604. **E-mail:** cc_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: **https://wbtenders.gov.in** ICA- T5833(2)/2025

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN : U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
WBSEDCL invites e-Tender as follows:
NIT No.: WBSEDCL/SPGD/O&M/6X10 MW SPVPP (2nd Call)/NIT-67, **Dt.:** 11.03.2025 of the Chief Engineer, Solar Power Generation Department, WBSEDCL. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 15,04,38,000/- for *'Three (03) years' Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of 06 nos. X 10 MW (AC) Ground Mounted Solar PV Power Plant installed at different districts of West Bengal'.* ICA- T5819(3)/2025
For details, **visit https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsedcl.in**

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BkTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref No.: WBPDCL /Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-3289 Dated: 10.03.2025
NIT No. : WBPDCL /BKTPP/NIT/E3620/24-25
E- Tenders in prescribed format are

SHORT TAKES

4 held for south Delhi burglary

Four people, including a woman, have been arrested for a burglary in south Delhi's Kailash Colony, where jewellery worth Rs 50-60 lakh was stolen, police said on Monday.
The incident took place on Feb 21, when a family returned to their residence in Kailash Colony to find their main door broken and valuables, including cash and jewellery worth Rs 50-60 lakh, missing. A case was registered at the Greater Kailash police station, and a team launched an investigation.
"CCTV footage and technical surveillance led the police team to the suspects—Pardhan(34), Bhanwar Singh(60), a 53-year-old woman, and Ramavtar Soni(28)—who were subsequently arrested," DCP (south) Ankit Chauhan said. TNN

7 B'deshis held for illegal stay

Seven illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, including one minor girl, have been detained from east Delhi on Sunday.
The operation began with the detention of Dilawar Khan (48) in Krishna Nagar. "At first, he claimed to be a resident of West Bengal, but after sustained interrogation and verification of documents, police teams found that he is from Bangladesh's Morrelganj district. Further interrogation led to the identification of six more individuals, including a minor girl, from different locations," DCP (east) Abhishek Dhania said. The detained individuals had entered India illegally via river routes near the India-Bangladesh border.
The deportation process has been initiated. TNN

'Give chargesheet copy to AAP MP'

A Delhi court on Monday asked for a copy of the chargesheet and supplementary chargesheet to be supplied to AAP Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha while hearing his plea for monitoring the investigation of vandalism at the DJB office five years ago.
The case was registered on a complaint filed by Chadha in 2020. The court of additional chief judicial magistrate Paras Dalal said it would ensure he got a copy of the chargesheets and listed the matter for the next hearing on April 7.
Delhi police had filed a chargesheet under sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting while armed with a deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly) and 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of Rs 50) of IPC, and Section 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, and Section 3 of Pandemic Act. TNN

Noida To Take Back Land Given For DND

330 Acres Lie Unused; NTBCL Opposes Move

Shafaque.Alam
@timesofindia.com

Noida: Noida Authority has decided to take back unused land allotted to DND Flyway from Noida Toll Bridge Company Ltd (NTBCL), the concessionaire, after the Supreme Court in Dec last year ordered the road will remain toll-free. NTBCL has opposed the move, citing a 31-year contract signed in 1998 is still valid till 2029.

Noida had given 454 acres of land for DND, of which 330 acres lie unused. NTBCL built the 9.2km-long flyway connecting Noida to Delhi's Maharani Bagh, the now-defunct toll plaza and its office on 124 acres of the allotted land.

Currently, large chunks of land are still vacant on both sides of the toll plaza, which the Authority plans to reclaim. Parks, cow shelters, green belts and a cricket ground have come up on this prime land along the Delhi-Noida connector.

Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M told **TOI** a survey was underway to assess how much land allotted to the NTBCL still lies unutilised.

"The survey's report is expected within a week. So far, no decision has been taken on the future use of the land or if the now-defunct toll plaza will be dismantled," he said.

454
ACRES OF LAND ALLOTED FOR DND FLYWAY, OF WHICH 124 ACRES USED

In a letter to NTBCL, Noida Authority said: "Noida Authority has decided to constitute a team under the chairmanship of special executive officer (land records) to mark the remaining land, excluding the land used in construction, provided to NTBCL for the construction of the DND Flyway; and take possession of the subject Land, post marking."

NTBCL has termed the move "unlawful" and a violation of its concession agreement with Noida Authority. "We have issued a letter to Noida Authority and called for an immediate withdrawal of the office order and warned the (Noida) Authority of legal action if it proceeds with its plan to demarcate and take back possession of land leased to NTBCL under agreements dating back to 1998," the company said in a statement.

NTBCL argued that while certain provisions of the concession agreement were nullified, the agreement itself — and the associated land leases — remain valid.

The company cited multiple legal documents, including the 1997 Concession Agreement between Noida Authority, IL&FS and NTBCL that allowed it to develop and operate the DND Flyway, and the 1998 Noida Land Lease Deed and Delhi Land Lease Deed that granted it the right to hold and use the land for a period of 31 years, along with the concession agreement.

NTBCL contends the Authority's latest directive "violates" these agreements and is an attempt to bypass the ongoing Supreme Court review process. It has also accused the Authority of attempting to reclaim land before all legal avenues have been exhausted.

DDA offers 828 LIG, EWS flats; booking starts today

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has launched a housing initiative offering 828 flats — 624 LIG units in Siraspur and 204 EWS units in Loknayak Puram. The booking process will start from 12pm on Tuesday.

Following the high demand for affordable housing, these flats will be available in addition to the units already part of DDA's ongoing Sabka Ghar Awaas Yojana 2025, stated the authority. "A special discount of 25% will be offered for different disadvantaged sections of society," it added.

Flats will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Their cost in Siraspur will range from Rs 17.4 lakh to Rs 17.7 lakh, and at Loknayak Puram, from Rs 27 lakh to Rs 28.4 lakh. "The tentative cost does not include water connection charges," stated the circular.

DDA also introduced a Dwarka Community Service Personnel Housing Scheme 2025, offering flats for the staff working for the apartment owners of Golf View Condo, featuring 349 flats in Dwarka Sector 19B, with specific terms and conditions.

"Only the legal owners of HIG, super HIG and penthouse flats in Golf View Condo are eligible to apply for these flats," DDA stated. Each applicant is eligible for only one flat, irrespective of the number of flats bought in his name in Golf View Condo, it added.

The registration process began on Monday and the last date for online registration is March 24. The flats will be sold through an online e-auction from March 29. They will have a plinth area of 50 sqm and cost around Rs 32.5 lakh.

Use virtual info kiosks for flight updates at IGI

Times News Network

New Delhi: Virtual information display (VID) kiosks, which aim to make a passenger's journey smoother and smarter, have been launched at IGI Airport, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said on Monday. VID

DIGITAL ASSISTANT

kiosks, installed at T1 and T3, will offer real-time flight updates with a simple scan of the boarding pass.

After a passenger arrives at terminals 1 or 3, instead of searching for help or missing a flight update, they can simply visit a virtual assistant ready to guide them through every step of their journey. "With intuitive 3D maps and live location tracking, navigating through the terminal becomes effortless. Passengers can easily find their boarding gate, discover the nearest restaurants, shops or amenities, and explore the airport like never before," the airport operator stated.

One of the most exciting features of VID kiosks is their 24/7 live video support, DIAL said. If a passenger has a question, needs help, or just feels unsure, VID connects him instantly to a customer service agent via a video call. "Whether it is flight assistance, navigating the terminal or inquiring about services, this direct connection ensures passengers are never left in the dark," it pointed out.

VID will serve as the ultimate guide to first-time flyers who often face challenges from locating the right gates to understanding airport offerings. Passengers can simply scan their boarding pass and instantly receive flight updates, gate directions and even a downloadable airport map.

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuriar said, "VID is not just a kiosk, it is a companion designed to redefine how passengers interact with their airport environment. It is another step towards transforming the airport experience, making it simpler, smarter and more seamless for passengers."

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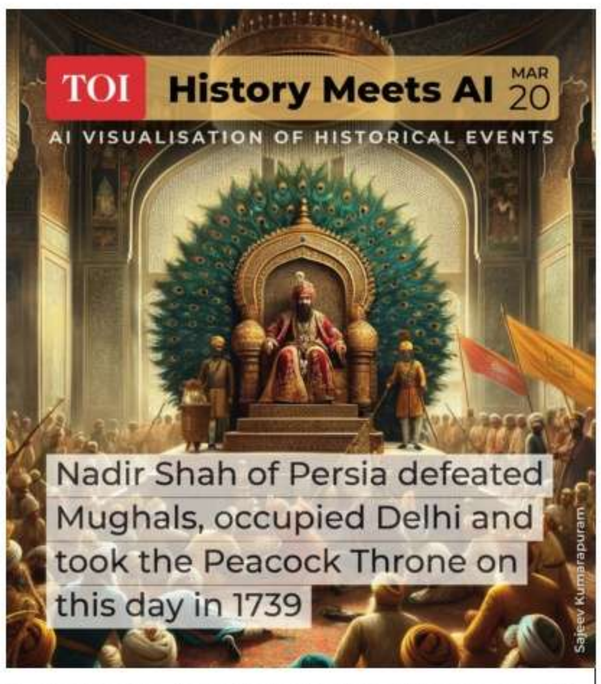
TIMES NATION

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

BILL GATES & AGRICULTURE MANTRI CHOUHAN DISCUSS AI COLLABORATION IN FARMING, RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JOYMALYA BAGCHI OF CALCUTTA HC TAKES OATH AS SUPREME COURT JUDGE, ON COURSE TO BE CJI IN '31


TOI
History Meets AI
MAR 20
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS
Nadir Shah of Persia defeated Mughals, occupied Delhi and took the Peacock Throne on this day in 1739
Sajeev Kumarapuram

3 of T'gana family killed in US car crash

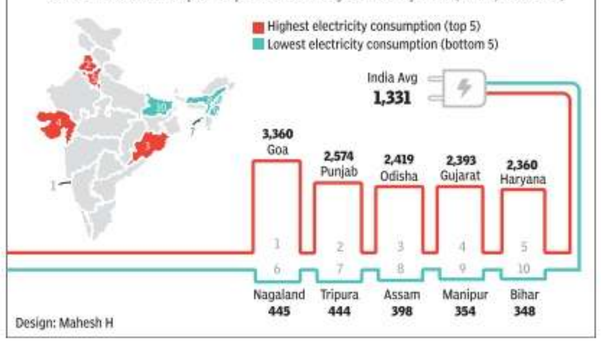
Three members of a family, including a five-year-old boy, from Telangana's Rangareddy district were killed in a road accident in Osceola County, Florida, in the US on Sunday, reports **Sushil Rao**. The crash occurred when a pickup truck driving on the wrong side of the road collided head-on with the SUV the victims were travelling in. The deceased have been identified as Pragathi Reddy (34), her mother-in-law Suneetha (56), and son Arvin (5). Pragathi's husband Rohit Reddy (34), who was driving the SUV, and their nine-month-old son survived with injuries. Pragathi was the second daughter of former MPTC member Mohan Reddy and former sarpanch Pavitra Devi, associated with BRS. The accident occurred at 2.50 pm local time between Kenansville Road and Yates Ranch Road. The SUV veered off the road and overturned. Pragathi and Suneetha, who were in the Toyota, were pronounced dead at the scene, while Arvin was declared dead at a hospital. Florida highway patrol troopers said the pickup truck was travelling the wrong way and into the direct path of the SUV. The truck driver sustained minor injuries and was taken to hospital by police.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Avg Goan uses almost 10x more power than avg person in Bihar

The west coast and northwest lead in per capita annual electricity consumption in India. If UTs are included in the comparison, the people in Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli emerge as the runaway leaders, consuming close to 8,900kWh power on average in a year

State-wise annual per capita electricity consumption (kWh, 2022-23)



Design: Mahesh H

Brand SFJ a terrorist outfit, Rajnath tells US intel chief

Trump Admin Committed To Defeating 'Islamist Terrorism': Gabbard

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Monday asked the Trump administration to take strong action against Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), which is banned in India for promoting secessionist and pro-Khalistani activities, during his meeting with visiting US director of national intelligence Tulsi Gabbard.

Singh told Gabbard that the US should designate SFJ, which was "linked" to Pakistan and other terrorist/secessionist outfits and undertakes anti-India activities on American soil, a foreign terrorist organisation under its own domestic laws, sources said.

"SFJ, run in the US by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun who himself is a designated terrorist here, regularly threatens Indian political leaders and diplomats, advocates secessionism and violence for the creation of Khalistan, and even tries to incite Sikhs in the Indian Army and police forces to mutiny," a source said.

Banned for the first time in India in 2019, SFJ was again declared an "unlawful association" in July under the UAPA by the home ministry for another five years.

Indian diplomacy seems to be finding new channels. On a day when PM Modi joined US President Trump's social media platform, he also gifted Tulsi Gabbard, US director of national intelligence, Gangajal collected from Sangam during the just-concluded Maha Kumbh. Gabbard, who follows Hinduism, presented Modi with a rosary made of sacred basil

In media interviews later, Gabbard said the US was deeply concerned about the persecution of minorities in Bangladesh and the Trump administration was committed to defeat "Islamist terrorism" globally. She noted that PM Modi also took this threat seriously and added that the two leaders would work together to identify and defeat the threat.

"The long-time unfortunate persecution, killing and abuse of religious minorities like Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and others has been a major area of concern for the US govt and President Trump and his administration," Gabbard told NDTV World.

She spoke about the ideology of an "Islamic Caliphate" and how extremist elements and terror groups globally aimed for such an outcome. "The threat of Islamist terrorists and the global effort of different terror groups are routed in the same ideology and objective — which is to rule or govern with an Islamist Caliphate," she said, adding, "This obviously affects people of any other religion, other than the one that they find acceptable, and they choose to carry this out with terror and very violent ways and means."

Her remarks mark a strong indictment of Mohammad Yunus-led interim dispensation in Dhaka which had enjoyed support from the Biden administration. In her meeting with Singh, Gabbard reaffirmed the growing strength of the India-US bilateral defence partnership, drawing from the joint statement issued after the recent Modi-Trump meeting in DC, while laying emphasis on intelligence-sharing.

▶'Trade talks at very top', P10

The two stressed that strategic security remained a vital pillar of the comprehensive global strategic cooperation between India and the US. "They reviewed significant strides made in areas of military exercises, strategic cooperation, integration of defence industrial supply chains and information-sharing cooperation, especially in the maritime domain, between the two countries," an MoD official added.

HC clears Adanis in ₹388cr share price rigging case

Swati.Deshpande@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Observing that a cheating case was not made out, Bombay HC Monday discharged Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL), its chairman **Gautam Adani** and MD Rajesh Adani from a case of alleged share price manipulation.

Serious Fraud Investigation Office had filed a complaint in an alleged case of artificial and unlawful manipulation of the company's share price. The SFIO case was that the alleged fraud in the Adani scrip led to an "unlawful gain of Rs 388 crore" to Adani Group.

HC in its judgment said: "A fundamental requirement for a cheating offence under Section 420, IPC, is presence of an element of deception, which leads to victim suffering from loss while accused gains wrongfully." The court said that in the SFIO case "there is a conspicuous absence of any such allegations from an affected party".

"Merely by asserting that the accused has made a wrong gain without demonstrating corresponding wrongful loss or deception suffered by a specific victim does not suffice to attract the offence of cheating under IPC," HC said. With no substance to back the main offence, the ancillary offence of criminal conspiracy becomes "unsustainable", HC noted.

Justice R N Laddha rejected a request from SFIO to suspend operation of the order for two weeks to enable it to appeal in SC. SFIO had lodged a complaint in 2012 and invoked Section 420 (cheating) and Section 120B (criminal conspiracy) of IPC against the firm and 10 other accused.

In 2014 and 2015, a Ballard Pier magistrate dropped the case against Adanis. But in 2019, sessions court set aside the magistrate court order. Aggrieved, in 2019, AEL and Gautam Adani, then 57, petitioned HC in appeal against the sessions court order. On Monday, HC quashed the sessions court order.

SFIO's allegations were that "Ketan Parekh entered into a criminal conspiracy with AEL to artificially manipulate share price of AEL". The other allegation was that the Adani entities gained unlawfully by providing funds to KP entities to artificially manipulate shares and offload their shareholding when prices were high.

Adani's counsel argued that AEL cannot trade its shares on stock exchange, hence allegations of manipulation of shares by it are "devoid of merit". Besides, Gautam and Rajesh Adani "can't be tried vicariously in their capacity of chairman and MD" for the penal offences.

Punjab cops gun down suspect in Amritsar temple grenade attack

Chandigarh/Amritsar: A man suspected of hurling a grenade at Thakurdwara temple in Amritsar on March 15 was killed in a shootout with Punjab Police early on Monday.

Amritsar police commissioner Gurpreet Bhullar said cops tracked the suspects — Gursidak Singh and his accomplice Vishal — to Bal Sikander village near Amritsar city around 6am. When police attempted to arrest them, they opened fire and wounded a head constable.

Police returned fire, fatally wounding Gursidak. Vishal escaped, triggering a manhunt.

Two men on a motorcycle had targeted the temple around 12.35am, damaging a portion of the Vaishnava shrine dedicated to Laddoo Gopal, a form of Krishna. No injuries were reported in the explosion. The priest was sleeping inside and narrowly escaped harm.

Addressing concerns over police shootings, Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav defended the response. "If anyone fires at police, police will retaliate. This is not an aggressive policy. It is self-defence," he said. "The goal is to work within the law & ensure criminals face justice, but when attacked, we will respond accordingly."

DGP Yadav said security forces would send a strong message to external elements. "Did you see what happened in Amritsar?" he said at a presser in Chandigarh. "We have a zero-tolerance policy. We will teach gangsters, ISI, and its masters such a lesson that they will not dare to look at Punjab."

According to Bhullar, ISI could be involved in the attack. He cited ISI's alleged role in a series of similar explosions in Punjab's border areas. Since Nov 2024, at least 12 grenade attacks have targeted police stations. TNN

EC asks CEOs to fix EPIC issue by March 21

Kolkata: Election Commission Monday issued a directive to chief electoral officers of all states regarding the protocol for removal of duplicate Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers. EC's letter stated that electoral registration officers could eliminate duplicate EPIC numbers by issuing fresh ones to one set of voters. CEOs have been asked to make amends by March 21 and send a compliance report to the commission.

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee had flagged the issue after voters from two states were found to have identical EPIC numbers. Trinamool had submitted a memorandum to EC for a unique EPIC number for all voters to maintain the sanctity of the electoral process. TNN

Pak terrorist killed in Kashmir, first of 2025

Naseer.Ganai@timesofindia.com

Srinagar: Security forces killed a Pakistani terrorist during a gunfight Monday in a forested area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, 100km from Srinagar. This marked the first terrorist killing in Kashmir this year.

The gunfight erupted in the morning when J&K police, the Army, and CRPF launched a search operation after receiving intelligence about the terrorist's presence, a police officer said.

"As the forces approached a knoll where the terrorist was hiding, he started firing. The forces returned fire and killed the terrorist, identified as Saifullah," the officer said. Security forces found an AK-47 assault rifle, four magazines, and a pouch at the site.

This was the first counterterrorism operation in nearly two months in Kashmir. The last exchange of gunfire occurred Jan 20-21 in north Kashmir's Sopore, where a soldier was killed.

In Jammu, deputy CM Surinder Choudhary said Pakistan was attempting to destabilise the region. "All attempts would be foiled," he added.

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Beloved Pitaji S.Trilochan Singh Veerji

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— Family and Friends. —

REMEMBRANCES

12th Death Anniversary

Surinder Singh Nijjar (PAPA)
12 years since you left, we miss you everyday.
Jaskinder Kaur, Sumanjeet Kaur, Gursartaj, Suhrid

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Satinderjit (Lotus) Kohli
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It has been 20 long years you left us . We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain, to walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again. Missing you. Sabharwal Family.

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IIT-B innovation to take learning out of classroom

Yogita.Rao@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: From the next academic year, several courses at IIT-Bombay will be delivered in an unconventional manner. The premier institute has decided to enhance the existing teaching pedagogy with more activity-based learning focused on problem-solving projects, enhanced hands-on training and greater emphasis on discussion-based classroom interactions. It will not be a one-size-fits-all solution and will therefore have department-specific approaches.

One of the proposed initiatives will be voluntary summer internships for the first-year students in their own hometowns to tackle technically and socially-relevant local issues with help from the institute's alumni chapters.

The idea is to re-look at traditional approaches in the teaching-learning process, given how online resources have transformed education. Many faculty members appointed in the last three years have shown interest in jointly developing innovative pedagogy for their classrooms before the new semester. The decision has been moulded by feedback from the Teaching Learning Assessment (TLA) review committee of students and faculty members on the campus.

"The focus...is on nurturing an ecosystem where learning is a natural expression and students have an opportunity to discover and build on their innate talents. The effort is based on a bottom-up approach and is being carried out through discussions and workshops with students, faculty, alumni and experts," said a professor from the review committee.

The first phase — courses incorporating practices of shared contextual learning, hands-on and field-exposure-based classroom exercises, and industry and alumni-supported internships — will be rolled out in the 2025-26 academic year. The committee is also proposing to introduce voluntary internships at first-year level, for students to take up technical issues with social relevance in their hometowns with help from institute's alumni.

IIT-Bombay Director, Professor Shireesh Kedare, said the TLA committee had a meeting with about 100 faculty members from different departments. "They are willing to offer courses from the next semester in activity mode. The idea is to have more project-based, exposure-based and discussion-oriented learning. Students should be able to solve problems instead of banking on artificial intelligence-based tools. It will be custom-made based on students' and departments' needs," said Kedare. The TLA review committee also had a meeting with students and alumni and more such meetings are planned in the near future.

The review committee was set up after the institute's five-year review report presented last year highlighted the need for evolving the teaching-learning process. The report had said, '...given the considerable expansion of the institute, there is a growing consensus on necessity for academic oversight, enhancement of teaching quality, mentoring students and researchers for careers in academia or R&D, standardization of grading practices, systematic collection of feedback, and a potential revision of academic policies...'

The professor from the review committee said, "The aspirations of students have undergone major changes over the last decade. This proposed initiative is important for the faculty body to be able to serve the students at the institute, and in turn, the future leadership of the country. IITs were set up in the late 1950s and early 60s as a part of the nation-building exercise, and now need to be a part of creating the new future as India-2047."

TEACHING REVAMP

"The focus... is on nurturing an ecosystem where learning is a natural expression and students have an opportunity to discover and build on their innate talents

An IIT-B professor part of review committee

Published for the Proprietors, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd., by Rajeev Yadav at Times House, 7,Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi -110002 and printed by him at **Times Of India Press, 13, Site IV, Industrial Area, Sahibabad (UP)**, Dainik Jagran Press, Plot NO. C2/2-1, Selaqui Industrial Area, Dehradun(UTTARAKHAND) and Dainik Jagran Press , Bharman Nagla, Pilibhit Bypass Road, Bareilly (UP) and Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd. Plot No. 7-8, Sector M-11, Transport Hub, Industrial Model Township, Manesar, Haryana-122051. Regd. Office, Dr. Dadabhai Naoroji Road, Mumbai-400001. Editor (Delhi Market) : Diwakar Asthana – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act.

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Need clarity on delimitation safeguards for south: YSRCP

Agrees With Shah On Proportional Seat Increase

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COMING TOGETHER: DMK delegation met with Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and invited him to be part of a joint action committee, opposing the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies

New Delhi: Amid the debate over the impact that Lok Sabha delimitation on population criteria will have on the political weight of southern states, YSR Congress Party of Andhra Pradesh has demanded that the Modi govt spell out the mechanism by which it will ensure that the states which followed the policy of population control do not lose out in the process.

YSRCP leader in Lok Sabha P V Midhun Reddy said the party agrees with home minister Amit Shah's comment that there should be a proportionate increase in the LS seats of southern states.

Reddy said his party is weighing its options about the invite from DMK head and Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin for attending a meeting of the joint action committee formed to fight for the cause of states that may suffer if delimitation is done on the population criteria.

"We are thinking about it. We will attend or send a letter of support, though we are not part of the group (JAC). We are still to take a decision," Reddy told **TOI**.

Calling the delimitation debate as important, Reddy said YSRCP is in agreement with the statement HM Shah made in Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu that "whatever number of seats are increased (across India), the south will have an increase proportionately." He, however, added, "But we need to know the system by which the delimitation would be done to ensure a proportionate increase for states like Andhra Pradesh. Whether it requires a constitutional amendment or what mechanism is required, that should be spelt out."

Reddy said southern states should be given fair treatment because they followed the national call for population control.

The remark from YSRCP is significant as the party has been engaged in a fine balancing act between being friendly to the governing BJP and Modi govt, and to come across as independent. While YSRCP was firmly with the central govt in the 17th Lok Sabha when party chief Jagan Mohan Reddy was the Andhra CM, the 18th LS has created a complication as YSRCP lost power in Andhra to arch-rival TDP of Chandrababu Naidu, which is also a partner in the Modi govt.

Having taken the lead in the delimitation debate, the DMK has invited all the political parties and chief ministers for a meeting to discuss the nettlesome subject in Chennai on March 22.

Language is for communication, not for hating, says Naidu

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh CM **N Chandrababu Naidu** Monday said only those people who study in their mother tongue are excelling across the world and a misconception is prevalent that only English can guarantee knowledge.

Addressing the assembly, the CM said, "Language is only for communication. Knowledge will not come with language. Only people who study in their mother tongue are excelling across the world. It is easy to learn (through the mother tongue)," said Naidu.

"Language is not for hating. Here, the mother tongue is Telugu. Hindi is the national language and international language is English," said the CM. Naidu underscored that it is important to learn as many languages as possible for livelihood without forgetting the mother tongue, adding that learning the 'national language' will enable fluent conversation in Delhi in Hindi. PTI

Med tourism on rise post-Covid, govt tells Parl, launches portal

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New Delhi: Data shared by govt in Parliament shows that the number of foreigners arriving in India for medical purposes has seen a gradual rise post Covid.

While in the first year of the pandemic (2020) this number was over 1.8 lakh, it rose to 3.2 lakh in 2021 and further to 4.7 lakh in the following year, as per Bureau of Immigration data. In 2023, almost 6.6 lakh foreigners visited for medical purposes and provisional data for last year shows that the number of visitors in this category was 6.2 lakh.

Meanwhile, data on foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India as a whole shows that close to 48 lakh tourists arrived in the first half of 2024 compared to 53 lakh in 2019. "Further, as per data from Bureau of Immigration and UNWTO Barometer, May 2024, FTAs in 2023 have recovered to 87.1% of prepandemic levels, closely aligning with the global recovery rate of 88.8% and surpassing the Asia-Pacific region's recovery rate of 65.4%," culture and tourism minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said.

He was responding to a question in Lok Sabha on whether govt was aware that India recorded nearly 48 lakh FTAs in the first half of 2024, which is approximately 90% of the figure for the same period in 2019.

Don't quash proceedings in eco offences without trial: SC

Refuses Ex-IAS Officer's Plea In 2 Graft Cases

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Such acts, when committed by persons in positions of power, erode public confidence in governance, the apex court said

New Delhi: Observing that proceedings in economic offences should not be quashed by courts at a preliminary stage without trial, Supreme Court on Monday refused a plea of high-profile former Gujarat cadre IAS officer Pradeep Sharma for discharge in a money laundering case.

While turning down Sharma's plea in both corruption and money laundering cases, the apex court also held that it was not mandatory for police to conduct preliminary inquiry before the registration of an FIR in corruption cases as pleaded by the former IAS officer. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and P B Varale also rejected his plea that PMLA provision could not be invoked against him as it was not there at the time of alleged offence and held that money laundering was not a static event but an ongoing activity.

"It is well established that offences under the PMLA are of a continuing nature, and the act of money laundering does not conclude with a single instance but extends so long as the proceeds of crime are concealed, used, or projected as untainted property. The legislative intent behind the PMLA is to combat the menace of money laundering, which by its very nature involves transactions spanning over time... Thus, the argument that the offence is not continuing does not hold good in law or on facts," SC said.

The court said ED successfully demonstrated prima facie that Sharma remained involved in financial transactions linked to proceeds of crime beyond the initial point of commission and the proceedings initiated against him were well within the legal framework and could be assailed on that ground.

"PMLA was enacted with the primary objective of preventing money laundering and confiscating the proceeds of crime, thereby ensuring such illicit funds do not undermine the financial system. Money laundering has far-reaching consequences, not only in terms of individual acts of corruption but also in causing significant loss to the public exchequer. The laundering of proceeds of crime results in a significant loss to the economy, disrupts lawful financial transactions and erodes public trust in the system. The alleged offences in the present case have a direct bearing on the economy... . Such acts, when committed by persons in positions of power, erode public confidence in governance and lead to systemic vulnerabilities within financial institutions," it said.

"It is settled law that in cases involving serious economic offences, judicial intervention at a preliminary stage must be exercised with caution, and proceedings should not be quashed in the absence of compelling legal grounds," the court said, adding it is imperative that he (Sharma) must undergo thorough judicial scrutiny during trial.

"A proper trial is necessary to unearth the full extent of the offence, to evaluate the evidence produced by the appellant, to analyse the complete chain of final transactions, and find out the veracity of the severe allegations and the amount of proceeds of crime. The legal framework under the PMLA serves as a crucial mechanism to ensure that individuals involved in laundering proceeds of crime are brought to justice and that economic offences do not go unpunished," it said.

Trade talks happening at very top: Gabbard

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

"Obviously PM Modi is looking out for what is in the best interest of India's economy and the opportunities available for the people of India. President Trump is doing the same for the US, our economic interests and interests of the American people

New Delhi: US intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard has expressed optimism about strengthening economic and trade ties between India and the US, and stating that "direct dialogue is happening at the very top" to bolster relations, and that President Donald Trump and PM Narendra Modi are seeking "good solutions".

"What I have heard from Indian govt officials I have spoken to in the last few days is that there is an opportunity to see more potential for strengthening our economic relationship. I am glad to see that they are viewing it in a more positive light, rather than focusing solely on the negative aspect of tariffs," said the US' director of national intelligence (DNI) in an interview to news agency ANI when asked about the tariffs issue which has triggered anxiety and hurt financial markets worldwide.

Trump has threatened to impose what he calls reciprocal tariffs on India and identified New Delhi as a country which charges high tariffs.

"Obviously PM Modi is looking out for what is in the best interest of India's economy and the opportunities available for the people of India. President Trump is doing the same for the US, our economic interests and interests of American people," she said.

The US intelligence chief, who is on a visit to India, said talks between the two countries at the highest level will help prepare the way forward. "So, what I see as a great positive is that we have two leaders who have common sense and who are looking for good solutions. This direct dialogue happening at the very top in both of our countries but also at the different secretaries and the cabinet members is going to be key to lay down what that path forward really looks like," said Gabbard.

She said there was huge interest among private sector in both countries to strengthen ties and explore areas of cooperation. "Personally, I am excited because there is keen interest in the private sector here in India and in the US to seek out those opportunities and to maximise them."

US and India are working on a bilateral trade pact and govt is hopeful of a "win-win" deal. An Indian official had told **TOI** the deal is expected to see import duties being cut on both sides, a move that is expected to help blunt any impact of the reciprocal tariffs. Commerce minister Piyush Goyal has held talks with US trade officials including commerce secretary Howard Lutnick and more negotiations are planned to arrive at a mutually beneficial trade deal.

BJP neta's bro held in ₹122cr coop bank scam

Mumbai: The city Economic Offences Wing (EOW), probing the alleged misappropriation of Rs 122 crore cash from New India Cooperative Bank, arrested Javed Aazam, the younger brother of BJP's former Maharashtra secretary Hyder Azam, late Monday, reports **Ahmed Ali**. A senior EOW officer said that Javed will be produced before the court on Tuesday.

This is the seventh arrest in the scam which came to light on Feb 12. EOW summoned Javed for questioning Monday after his name cropped up during the interrogation of businessman Unnathan Arunachalam, who was arrested the previous day. According to sources, Unnathan claimed he gave Rs 18 crore to Javed for his electronics business. EOW is now probing Javed's financial dealings.

121 women cadets in NDA, most from Haryana, govt tells RS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Haryana has the most women cadets in NDA at 34, followed by UP (27) and Rajasthan (13)

New Delhi: After wrestling, women from Haryana are making a mark in the military arena as well. There are currently 34 women cadets from the state undergoing the rigorous three-year training course in the tri-Service National Defence Academy (NDA) at Khadakwasla (Pune).

After SC in 2021-22 paved the way for women to take the NDA entrance exam after class XII, there are now 121 women cadets in the NDA, while five have dropped out.

After Haryana, there are 27 women cadets from UP, 13 from Rajasthan, 11 from Maharashtra, six from Madhya Pradesh and four from Punjab, among others, junior defence minister Sanjay Seth told Rajya Sabha in a written reply. "Selection to the NDA is through a national written exam conducted by UPSC, followed by selection (interview and physical fitness) by the Services Selection Board, with no demarcation or quota for any state or UT. The first batch of female cadets joined NDA in Aug 2022," he added.

The armed forces have been inducting women since the early-1990s but their entry was restricted to military academies where cadets are taken after graduation and only as short-service commission officers. In the Army, for instance, "lady cadets" have been inducted at the Officers' Training Academy (OTA) at Chennai for the last 30 years.

Though women now also get permanent commission and can be promoted as commanding officers in the rank of Colonel after Supreme Court's intervention, they constitute a miniscule minority in the over 14-lakh strong armed forces, numbering just around 3,900 (excluding the medical stream) in the around 70,000-strong officer cadre in the armed forces.

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I Kamna W/O, Sukhdev Luthra R/o 3 Greenwood Enclave, Sector 5, Wave City, Ghaziabad, U.p 201002 have changed my name to Kamna Luthra.
I, Awadesh Kumar have changed my Daughter name from Netra to Netra Pandey as per Affidavit dated 15/03/2025
I Meharsh Jain S/o Pulkit Jain R/o A-30 kakateeya apartments IP Extension, Patparganj, Delhi has changed my name from Kiaan Jain to Meharsh Jain for all future purposes.
I, Awadhesh Kumar have changed my Son name from Jyanshu to Jyanshu Pandey as per Affidavit dated 15/03/2025
I, Aisha, D/O Mohd Arif, R/O 36/256 Trilok Puri, Mayur Vihar, Ph-1, East Delhi - 110091 aged about 27 years do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows: a. That I have attained the age of majority and my date of birth is 03/07/1997. b. That I was Muslim by birth. c. That I renounced my Islam religion w.e.f. 21.10.2024 d. That I believe and love in Hinduism from my heart feelings. e. That I converted my religion from Islam to Hinduism voluntarily with my own choice, free will and sober mind without any coercion, pressure or inducement by anyone or any reason whatsoever. f. That I changed my name from Aisha to Avantika Sharma, w.e.f. 21.10.2024 and it shall be used for all purposes. g. That I shall be known as Hindu by religion and henceforth I shall freely profess, practice and propagate the religion of Hinduism and rest of my life following all the rites, rituals and customs of Hinduism for all purposes. h. That I swear this affidavit to declare that I have embraced Hinduism. And renounced Islam voluntarily by my own free will. That the statements made above are all true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Aisha Deponent.

tender & notices
COURT NOTICE
In The Court of Dr. Yadvender Singh District Judge-02 (South) Room No. 15, New Court Block 1, Third Floor, Saket Courts, New Delhi.
P.C-5/2023
Ashok Taneja S/o Sh. Prem Prakash Taneja R/o 14 Lerryn Drive, Bramhall, Stockport, Greater Machester, SK7 3 LU, U.K ..... Petitioner
V/s
State & Anr .....Defendent
Whereas, the petitioner above named has applied by a petition under section 276 of the Indian succession Act, 1925), for grant of letters of Administration, or Probate or Succession Certificate in respect of the Will Dated 10.01.2020, the estates/ assets left behind by the deceased Late Smt. Sarla Kumari Taneja W/o Late Sh. Prem Prakash Taneja R/o D-78, Second Floor, Saket, New Delhi-110017, who died on 01-02-2025.
Notice is hereby given to the general public having any interest in the Letters of Administration/Succession certificate of the estate of the above named deceased may if he/she desires, appears in this court on 09.04.2025 at 10:00 a.m. and participate in the proceedings before the grant of Letter of Administrations/ Probate/ Succession certificate or if desire to oppose the application of the petitioner aforesaid, he/she should enter appearance in persons in this court on the aforesaid date and be prepared to adduce on that day any documentary and oral evidence which he/she may desire to adduce in support of his/her claim to opposition to the application of the petitioner aforesaid.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court on this 5th day of March, 2025.
Sd/-
(Dr. Yadvender Singh)
District Judge-02, South, Saket, New Delhi.

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Ahead of BJP prez poll, Modi to meet Bhagwat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM **Narendra Modi** and RSS chief **Mohan Bhagwat** will share the stage in Nagpur on March 30, in what will mark their first public appearance together since the Ram Mandir consecration in Ayodhya on Jan 22 last year and their first joint event in Nagpur.

In a first for a sitting PM, Modi is also expected to visit Smruti Mandir in Reshimbagh to pay tributes to RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar on his birth anniversary. The meeting comes after a spell of speculation about tension in Sangh's ties with the BJP leadership.

Political circles, however, consider the forthcoming interaction significant because of the timing, venue and the purpose of the PM's visit to Nagpur. It coincides with BJP's preparations to elect a new national president, expected by the first week of April. The party is likely to hold its national council meeting in Bengaluru on April 18 to endorse the new president's election. RSS has always had a major say in the choice of the party chief.

That the meeting is happening in Nagpur where Sangh is headquartered and in the honour of Madhavrao Sadashivrao Golwalkar, 'Guru ji' to legions of Sangh swayamsevaks and sympathisers, has only invested the whole affair with even more significance.

Modi will participate in the foundation-laying ceremony of Madhav Netralaya, a state-of-the-art eye hospital and research institute, on Gudi Padwa, Marathi new year.

Modi and Bhagwat's last one-on-one meeting was on May 10, 2014, in Delhi, ahead of Lok Sabha polls. They were slated to appear together again on April 27, 2023, for the inauguration of National Cancer Institute and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's cultural centre in Koradi, 15km from Nagpur, but Modi's visit was cancelled due to the Karnataka assembly elections.

Sources said security agencies and RSS-affiliated organisations have begun preparations, though no official confirmation has come from BJP or the Sangh. At the March 30 event, Modi and Bhagwat will be joined on stage by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, Union minister Nitin Gadkari, Acharya Govind Giri Maharaj, Avadheshanand Maharaj and Nagpur's guardian minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule.

Bombay HC denies pre-arrest bail to judge in bribery case

Mumbai: Bombay high court on Monday declined anticipatory bail to a Satara sessions court judge accused of seeking a bribe from a bail applicant in a cheating case.

The sessions judge, Dhananjay Nikam, had petitioned HC on Dec 31, 2024, through his advocate Viresh Purwant. Senior counsel Ashok Mundargi appeared for him before Justice N R Borkar and sought relief, while additional public prosecutor Veera Shinde opposed the plea. HC's reasoned order will be made available later.

On Jan 15, Justice Borkar had noted the prosecution's claim that the complainant sat in the judge's car and the two allegedly had an incriminating conversation on the way to a bank. The sessions judge called all allegations as false and argued that there was nothing to link him to any accusation of demand or acceptance of money.

Mundargi said a plea was made to the bank to provide CCTV camera footage from Dec 9, 2024, but the bank expressed its inability to provide it without a court order, citing "confidentiality norms". HC had directed the bank in Jan to hand over the footage in a week.

Purwant said they will study the order and decide the next course of action. TNN

Kol-born Gayatri Spivak gets 2025 Holberg Prize

Honour Is Considered Equivalent To Nobel In Humanities

Dipawali Mitra & Poulami Roy Banerjee | TNN

Spivak is considered one of the most influential global intellectuals of our time, the Holberg Prize committee said

Kolkata: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, literary critic and postcolonial scholar, is now in the city, her hometown, as she savours news of her receiving the 2025 Holberg Prize — the closest equivalent to the Nobel in the field of humanities, social sciences, law, or theology research — for her groundbreaking work in literary theory and philosophy.

"I am tremendously grateful that the Holberg Committee continues to recognise the importance of humanities. No law or policy can prevail if people do not want it. Humanities can create a desire for the good of others," Spivak told **TOI**.

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Monday congratulated Spivak "on her attaining yet another top international recognition". Banerjee, on X, said she is "charmed by Spivak's long and sustained association with pro-poor voluntary services in some remote villages of Bengal".

The statement from the Holberg Prize committee reads: "Spivak is considered one of the most influential global intellectuals of our time, and she has shaped literary criticism and philosophy since the 1970s. She receives the prize for her groundbreaking interdisciplinary research in comparative literature, translation, postcolonial studies, political philosophy, and feminist theory."

The citation also states, "Spivak combats illiteracy in marginalized rural communities across several countries, including in Bengal... ."

Spivak completed her graduation in English at Presidency College in 1959. She did her PhD from Cornell University in 1967. Since 2007, she has been a professor at Columbia University, where she is also a founding member of Institute for Comparative Literature & Society.

Professors, alumni of Presidency University and Calcutta University, and academics say the award is an acknowledgement of the influence of Spivak's works on humanities community across the globe.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, a historian and scholar of postcolonial theory and subaltern studies, said: "It's a big recognition of the various contributions she has made to a variety of fields in the humanities. Her 'Can the Subaltern Speak?' will continue to be discussed for the questions it raised."

Partha Chatterjee, a political scientist, said: "Gayatri Spivak is a leading literary scholar of our time. The prize is richly deserved."

Oppn netas join AIMPLB protest against waqf bill

New Delhi: Stepping up its protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, expected to be introduced in Parliament in the ongoing budget session, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board on Monday led a demonstration here, which was joined by MPs from several opposition parties.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi cautioned NDA allies TDP, JDU and LJP (Ramvilas) that if they supported the bill, Muslims would not forgive them.

"Waqf grants Muslims the same rights that other religions enjoy over their institutions. If every faith has the right to administer its affairs, why are Muslims being singled out," asked AIMPLB's Syed Sadatullah Husaini.

Congress functionary and former minority affairs minister Salman Khurshid claimed that the bill was not valid constitutionally. Claiming that opposition MPs' suggestion to the joint parliamentary committee on the bill were rejected, Congress functionary Gaurav Gogoi said, "It shows govt does not want to resolve any issue, but just wants to create a divide in society."

"By rejecting all suggestions of opposition, govt has shown what its intention is. We are against this bill," SP functionary Dharmendra Yadav said. TMC MP Shatrughan Sinha said, "This is divisive politics. If they force this bill on the basis of brute majority, there will be protests." TNN

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Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL) invites tender for the Deployment of Private Security Agency for undertaking Non-Core Security Functions at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

For details, the interested parties may download the Tender document free of charge from **www.newdelhiairport.in** between 18.03.2025 to 21.03.2025 and submit their bid on 29.03.2025 as prescribed in Tender document.

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TENDER NOTICE

MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites bids through e-tendering.

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee Including GST (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/1134	License/Subscription Renewel and Annual Technical support renewal of Forcepoint Web Security solution & Data loss (DLP) under MPMKVVCL, Bhopal	188.00	5900/-	27.03.25 03.00 PM	08.04.25 03:00 PM
MD/MK/04/1135	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of SAN Storage under MPMKVVCL, Bhopal	220.00	11800/-	01.04.25 03.00 PM	09.04.25 03:00 PM
MD/MK/04/1136	Third Party Audit of Data Center and SCADA Center under MPMKVVCL, Bhopal	116.65	5900/-	02.04.25 03.00 PM	16.04.25 03:00 PM

Other details and full Tender documents would be available on Company website **https://portal.mpcz.in** & Govt. Website **https://mptenders.gov.in** shortly.
MPM/119265/2025 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)**

Govt. of Bihar

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTORATE, NALANDA
"KUNDALPUR MAHOTSAV – 2025"
SHORT TERM TENDER FOR EVENT MANAGER

Bihar Tourism Department and District Administration invites tender for Event Manager to arrange the event of "KUNDALPUR MAHOTSAV – 2025" on 10th – 11th April, 2025 in KUNDALPUR, NALANDA with following conditions.

(1) Sealed tender in two parts i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid in two separate envelops system are hereby invited from Event Management Company till **01.00 PM on 25 March, 2025** at District Nazarat Office, Collectorate, Biharsharif, NALANDA.

(2) The details tender documents can be downloaded from **www.nalanda.nic.in** or can also be obtained from the office the of Collector, NALANDA **till 12.00 PM on 25 March, 2025 .**

(3) The Tender will be received in the office of DM, NALANDA (NAZARAT SECTION, NALANDA) till **01: 00 PM on 25 March, 2025 .** The tender shall be opened on **25 March, 2025 at 03.00 PM** in which the tenderer or its representative may remain present at the time of opening of tender with presentation by tenderer.

(4) A pre bid meeting will be organized on **21 March, 2025 at 11:00 AM** in COLLECTORATE NALANDA.

PR. No. 021983 (District) 2024-25 **DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, NALANDA.**

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

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Notice Inviting e-Tenders

E-Tender (online tender) is invited for execution of the following works in Delhi Technological University, Delhi:

S. No.	Item Description	'e' Tender ID No.	Date of Opening of Technical Bids
1.	Construction of additional room (Space) adjoining to I.C. Engine Lab, Wind Tunnel at DTU main Campus, Bawana Road. (Composite Work)	2025_DTU_269036_1	18.03.2025

The details of Items, EMD, Tender document, Date & Time of submission of bids/opening of bids etc. is available on the 'e-procurement' website of Govt. of NCT of Delhi **http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in** against Tender I.D. No. mentioned above.

For participation in these tenders through e-procurement solution, all the tenderers are required to have digital certificate and registration with the application service provider (ASP).

--sd--
EE/ CPO, DTU

Join internship scheme, FM urges industry, launches mobile app

New Delhi: Finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** on Monday appealed to India Inc to come forward and participate in Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) while launching a dedicated mobile application for candidates to access this scheme. She added the app will make the scheme more accessible for youths.

Speaking to industry leaders and mediapersons, she said there is a need to give more confidence to youth while emphasising that there is no compulsion on industry and no interference. "You (industry) need to open the window... for people to have a peek," she said. The minister added that the scheme is for a national cause and Indian industry should participate in the larger interest.

Sitharaman said the scheme helps youth, especially in tier-II and -III cities for better understanding of the job market, and the industry can contribute to the country and the economy by participating in the scheme. The minister also said that she has appealed to MPs to encourage youth to join the scheme.

The FM also mentioned that there is a shortage of people in terms of industry expectations and requirements and the scheme is aimed at bridging that gap. According to Sitharaman, the scheme's website and app are being made more accessible with the app now available in various languages.

The scheme, announced in the 2024-25 Budget, aims to provide internship opportunities to one crore youth in the top 500 companies in five years. Interns are provided monthly financial assistance of Rs 5,000 for 12 months and a one-time grant of Rs 6,000 under the scheme.

Corporate affairs ministry secretary Deepti Gaur Mukherjee told reporters that about 1.15 lakh applicants had registered for the scheme and 2.4 lakh applications had been received. TNN

Cheetah Gamini, her 4 cubs released into the wild

Bhopal: A South African female cheetah, Gamini, and her four cubs — two males and two females — were released into Khajuri forest area in Kuno National Park on Monday. There are now 17 cheetahs in the wild, including 11 Indian-born cubs. Only nine remain in enclosures, including two 2-month-old cubs. MP CM Mohan Yadav announced the cheetahs' release on social media, adding all the cubs were over a year old, a sign of success for the cheetah reintroduction project.

The forest department has fitted radio collars on Gamini and its cubs, as with the rest.

With 17 cheetahs now prowling Ahera tourism zone of Kuno, tourists have a better chance of spotting one on safari, said an official. TNN

King George's Medical University U.P., Lucknow
Custom Bid Inviting Notice

Notice No: 4320/GeM/PS/FO/2024-2025 **Date: 17.03.2025**

Custom bid has been invited on GeM portal for the procurement of Dry Eye Diagnosis and Treatment equipment, Robotic Surgical System with Turnkey (all Surgical Specialties) & Mobile CT scanner machine with all accessories etc. Brief details are available at www.kgmu.org, while the complete bid documents can be accessed on the GeM portal.

(Finance Officer)

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Last date for submitting the proposals	01.04.2025

Date: 18.03.2025 **Executive Director (Mktg/PD) & CMO**

BIRBAL SAHNI INSTITUTE OF PALAEOSCIENCES
(An Autonomous Institution under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
53, UNIVERSITY ROAD, LUCKNOW - 226007 (U.P.) INDIA
Fax: 0522-2740098/2740485, Website : www.bsip.res.in

Expression of Interest (EOI)

CONFERENCE ORGANIZER (PCO) FOR ORGANIZING THE XXII INQUA CONGRESS, 2027 IN LUCKNOW, INDIA

Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, invites the Expression of Interest (EOI) from qualified and experienced Professional Conference Organizer for organizing **XXII INQUA CONGRESS** in the year 2027 to be held in LUCKNOW.

Interested parties meeting the eligibility criteria laid down in the notice should submit their EOI with required documents and information by 09.04.2025.

At the following address by the above deadline:
The Registrar, BSIP
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53. University Road, Lucknow-226 007 (U.P.) India
EOI document can be downloaded from e-portal (**www.bsip.res.in** & **www.eprocure.gov.in**)
The critical date sheet is as under:

Sl. No.	Description of Activity	Date	Time
1	Publishing Date	18.03.2025	
2	EOI document available for download	18.03.2025	
3	Meeting for clarification for EOI	21.03.2025	1000 Hrs.
4	Minutes of the meeting on clarification and revised EOI document if required to be uploaded on eportal	22.03.2025	
5	EOI submission start date	24.03.2025	
6	EOI submission end date	09.04.2025	1700 Hrs.
7	EOI Opening date	15.04.2025	

Super scribing Envelope with 'Expression of Interest for **INQUA, 2027**, By hand/By Speed Post/ Registered Post/Courier on working day i.e. Mon- Fri.(0930 Hrs-1745 Hrs). **REGISTRAR**

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Tender applications are invited for purchase of various items against tender No. **1-8** from the Manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/agents. The bidders can place their bids as per terms & conditions contained on https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

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2	Micromanipulators (for patch clamp)	01No.	Rs.34,000/-	-do-	-do-	Biophysics
3	Breath Test System	01No.	Rs.30,000/-	-do-	-do-	Gastroenterology
4	Advanced Dental Stool	05Nos.	Rs.21,660/-	08-04-2025	09-04-2025	OHSC
5.	Intraosseous Cannulation insertion device with intraosseous cannulation needles	Device 4 & Needle:100	Rs.14,000/-	-do-	-do-	Internal Medicine
6	PET Radiopharmaceuticals	As per technical specification	Rs.3,00,000/-	-do-	-do-	Nuclear Medicine
	Pre Bid case					
7	Low Energy Linear Accelerator with VMAT & IGRT Facilities on buy back basis	01No.	Rs.40,00,000/-	10-04-2025	11-04-2025	Radiotherapy
8	Washer Disinfector	02Nos.	Rs.2,00,000/-	-do-	-do-	CTVS

Tender document can also be downloaded from website www.pgimer.edu.in and can be applied on website **www.eprocure.gov.in**. Bid Security (EMD) should be for the amount as per the instruments defined in tender documents having its validity at least for one year & duly pledged in favour of **Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh**. The tenders will be opened on the dates given above at 12:00 PM in the presence of the authorized intending tenderers. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form, not accompanied with Bid Security shall be summarily rejected.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof. **"PRE-BID CONFERENCE" WITH INTENDING BIDDERS FOR ITEM Sr. No. 07 & 08 shall be held on 20.03.2025 from 03:00 P.M. ONWARDS IN THE PI(EP), OFFICE, PGIMER, CHANDIGARH.** The intending bidders are free to join Pre bid Conference through video conference. For more details contact: 0172-2756469 at Procurement Branch (Import).

NOTE 1. The terms and Conditions of the original Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) available on PGIMER Website will remain same. However on switching over to e-tendering on e-Procurement, the bids will be received in electronic form on e-Procurement website and no bid will be received in Physical form. **The EMD will be received in Physical form in Procurement Branch (Import) and scan copy is to be uploaded in electronic form on e-procurement website, CPPP Portal (Central Public Procurement Portal).**

NOTE 2. If any of the tender opening dates happens to be a holiday in PGIMER, Chandigarh, then the same shall be opened on next full working day.

Additional Terms and Conditions.

1. The Institute has adopted amended Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) which is available on e-Procurement website **(https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app)** and **Website: www.pgimer.edu.in.** Therefore the bidders are requested to go through the Instructions Carefully before submitting bids.

Professor In-Charge (EP)

Charges 'vague', says J&K HC, quashes detention of bar association ex-chief

Srinagar: J&K HC quashed on Monday former Kashmir Bar Association president Nazir Ahmad Ronga's preventive detention since July 10 last year on grounds of him being "a threat to public order", saying the allegations levelled against the 76-year-old were "vague", reports **Naseer Ganai**.

"There has been total non-application of mind on the part of the detaining authority in passing the order," Justice Sanjay Dhar said, directing the state govt to release Ronga immediately. The case filed against Ronga under J&K Public Safety Act (PSA), among the few laws of the erstwhile state to be retained after the nullification of Article 370 in 2019, accuses him of joining the separatist Hurriyat Conference with the intention of "spreading terrorism and to carry out unlawful activities, including secession of J&K from the Union of India".

Ronga has been accused of organising "anti-national seminars, rallies and various other programmes within court premises to glorify secessionism". These seminars were attended by "secessionist leaders like Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Yaseen Malik", the dossier states.

Ronga had been previously detained under PSA in the aftermath of Parliament striking down Article 370. He was released in 2020 after HC quashed his detention.

Justice Dhar said, "If we minutely examine the alleged activities of the petitioner after his release from the preventive detention in 2020, if comes to the fore that the detaining authority has not identified persons or like-minded members of the Kashmir Bar Association with the help of whom the petitioner intends to achieve his anti-national goals."

RGK victim's kin can pursue plea for further CBI probe: SC

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday permitted RG Kar hospital rape-murder victim's parents to pursue their petition seeking further probe by CBI into the incident before the Calcutta HC. Accused Sanjay Roy has been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in the case, but the parents claim a further probe is needed to unravel roles of other who allegedly aided and abetted the crime.

A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, and Justices Sanjay Kumar and Joymalya Bagchi told the parents' counsel, senior advocate Karuna Nundy, that instead of the SC adjudicating their application, it would be better for them to pursue their writ petition seeking court-monitored probe to find out involvement of others in the commission of the offence.

With the parents of the victim present in court, Nundy asked whether a special investigation team could be entrusted with the task of further probe. However, the bench said that it was open for the parents to make the same request before the single judge bench of the HC, where their petition is pending.

The single judge had asked the victim's father to seek a clarification from the Supreme Court, which has taken suo motu cognisance of the crime last year, whether it could proceed with the hearing on the petition when the matter is pending before the SC. TNN

बिहार सरकार

देश की राजधानी में बिहार के निवासियों के लिए

लोक सेवा केन्द्र

1. बिहार सदन, द्वारका, सेक्टर-19, पॉकेट-1, दिल्ली- 75
2. बिहार भवन, 5-कौटिल्य मार्ग, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली- 21

आर.टी.पी.एस. के अधीन

बिहार के मूल निवासियों के लिए जाति, आय, आवासीय, नॉन क्रीमी लेयर और EWS प्रमाण-पत्रों की निःशुल्क सेवा

बिहार के सभी गांवों का सी.एस./आर.एस./चकबंदी नक्शा

बिहार भवन, 5- कौटिल्य मार्ग, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली में रुपये 150 प्रति शीट का भुगतान कर हाथों-हाथ प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए संपर्क करें

8130461135 011-23792009

राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग द्वारा उपलब्ध कराई जा रही सेवाओं का लाभ लेने के लिए वेबसाइट https://biharbhumi.bihar.gov.in पर जायें।

PR No.- 021996 (Revenue)D. 2024-25

राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग, बिहार द्वारा जनहित में जारी...

RevenueBihar BiharRevenue RevenueandLandReformsDeptBihar

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

NIB NO. 43/2024-25

BIDs are invited in prescribed format from Bidders registered in Appropriate class in RRVPNL (Civil) as per enlistment rules & AA/A class in Central/ state Government Department and their undertakings in the O/o the Respective Executive Engineer (Civil) RVPN in NIT No. 43/2024-25 All information regarding BIDs are available on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.rvpn.co.in** and **http://sppp.raj.nic.in.**

UBN :- VPN2425WSOB03463
RRVPN/TR-6692/2025
Raj.Samwad/C/24/13222

Superintending Engineer (Civil), Jaipur

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MIZORAM

(An Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Chaltlang, Aizawl, Mizoram – 796 012
Phone/Fax: 0389-2391236 Email: registraroffice@nitmz.ac.in

No. NITMZ/Estt/98-1/2024/305 **Date: 18th March, 2025**

EOI FOR GROUP TERM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN(GTLIP)

NIT Mizoram invites Expression of Interest for **Group Term Life Insurance Plan(GTLIP) for Regular Employees of National Institute of Technology Mizoram for a period of one year.**

Last Date for Submission of EoI is **16th April, 2025.**

For details, please visit Institute's website i.e., **www.nitmz.ac.in**

Sd/-(Prof. AJMAL KOYA PULIKKAL)
Registrar in-charge
NIT Mizoram

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Shifa

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) Namely: **Shifa, D/o: Hazaruddin, R/o: H.No. C-3/718, Gali No.23/8, Zeba Masjid, Harsh Vihar, Delhi-110093** has Missing/kidnapped from her home since **19.02.2025.** In this regard a missing report vide **FIR No.168/2025 Dated 19.02.2025** has been lodged at **P.S Harsh Vihar, Delhi.**

Her Physical description is as under:-

Sex: Female, **Age:** 17 Years, 10 Months, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** White Suit Salwar.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this person please inform to the following.

Phone No.: 011-24368638, 011-24368641 | Fax no.: 011-24368639
Email id : cic@cbi.nic.in | Website : http://cbi.nic.in

SHO
P.S - Harsh Vihar, Delhi
DP/3218/NE/2025 **Phone: 9667047721, 9811777530**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is here by informed that an unidentified Male (depicted in the photo) name: **Unknown,** residence and family is **Unknown**, age **35 years** approx. was found dead at **Behind Children Park, Near NH-24 Service Lane, IP Extn., Delhi on dated 05.03.2025 at 02:15 PM.** In this regard a DD No. **72-A, dated 05.03.2025** has been registered at **PS Madhu Vihar, East Delhi.** Dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in the Mortuary of LBS Hospital.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5' 6" ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Healthy, **ID Mark:** 1. Maa-Paa tattoo on right forehand 2. Shivji tattoo on right shoulder, **Wearing:** Black Sando and black-white-yellow colour Shirt with Grey colour Jeans.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers:-

SHO
PS: Madhu Vihar, Delhi
DP/3223/ED/2025 (UIDB) **Ph.: 011-22732427, 22732429**
Mob.: 8750870624

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Dead Body by rail incident (depicted in the photo) name **unknown, S/o unknown, R/o unknown** was found at **PF No. 14, Pole No. 1024/G, Sadar Side, NDRS on 11.03.2025.** In this regard a DD No. **33-A, Dated 11.03.2025, U/s 194 BNSS** has been lodged at **PS New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.** The Dead body has been preserved in LHMC Hospital Mortuary, New Delhi for 72 hrs. for Identification. His physical description is as under:

Sex: Male, **Age:** 25-30 years, **Height:** 5' 3" ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Grey color T-Shirt, Blue color Jeans Pant and White Sport Shoes.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers:-

SHO
PS: New Delhi Rly. Stn., Delhi
DP/3127/Rly/2025 (UIDB) **Ph.: 011-23744073**
Mob.: 8750871305

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this Person **Named: Unknown, S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** Around 50 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Details of injury:** Nibbled by rats at face, **Wearing:** Brown colour Baniyan & Blue colour underwear, **Place of Recovery:** Found dead under wazirabad flyover, Outer Ring Road, Timarpur, Delhi on 14.03.2025. In this regard **DD No. 23A, Dated: 14.03.2025,** has been registered at P.S.: Timarpur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about identity of this person but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S.: Timarpur, Delhi
DP/3270/N/2025 **Ph.: 8588062480**

भारत सरकार (गृह मंत्रालय)

एक्स. सीएपीएफ कैंटीन

कोटद्वार, पौड़ी गढ़वाल (उत्तराखण्ड)

एक्स. सीएपीएफ कैंटीन कोटद्वार, पौड़ी गढ़वाल, उत्तराखण्ड वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए मदिरा आपूर्ति हेतु रजिस्टर्ड फर्मो से निविदा आमंत्रित करता है। इसकी सम्पूर्ण सूचना एवं अन्य नियमों और शर्तों का ब्यौरा निविदा फार्म में उपलब्ध है। इच्छुक फर्म अपनी ई-मेल आईडी निम्न ई-मेल आईडी में भेजे।

ई-मेल आईडी- ex.capfcanteenkotdwara@gmail.com

कैंटीन मैनेजर
Mob. 9456160129, 8791160129

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Chunni Devi

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Chunni Devi, W/o Brahmdev, R/o H. No. E-7/349, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 01.03.2025 from the Jurisdiction of PS Sangam Vihar, New Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 134 A, Dated 02.03.2025** has been lodged at Police Station Sangam Vihar, New Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped female is as under:

Name: Chunni Devi, Age: 64 Years, Height: About 4'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: White & Black Colour Suit and Salwar.

If anyone has any information about this missing/ kidnapped female please inform P.S. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station Sangam Vihar, New Delhi
DP/3206/SD/2025 **Ph: 8010085267, 8750870833**

e-mail :- igjammu@jkpolice.gov.in **0191-2544332, 2542696**
01912560417 (fax)

ZONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU

Subject : Hiring of Commercial Vehicles for one year through GEM for Jammu Zone Units.

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor J&K UT, Bids through GeM vide No. as shown against each below services are hereby invited from transporters, authorised dealers and registered firms for hiring of commercial vehicles shown against each bid Nos. for use by subordinate units mainly for transportation of Nafri/Para military force personnel from one place to another and for other logistic support tentatively for the period of one year from the date of signing of contract between ZPHQ Jammu and approved contractors, as and when required on the daily rate basis for Jammu Zone without fuel, which will be provided as per government approved fuel consumption for particular type of vehicles.

Moreover, detailed tender documents alongwith all relevant details with terms and conditions are available on GeM Portal in below mentioned bid Nos.

S.No	GeM Bid No.	Product detail
1.	GEM/2025/B/6011512	Bus 35 to 42 Seater
2.	GEM/2025/B/6008936	Bus Above 42 Seater
3.	GEM/2025/B/5927162	Tata Sumo

No. ZPHQJ/Tender/2025/7560-78
Dated :- 15-03-2025
DIP No:DIP/J-11115/24/17.03.2025

Chairman (Hiring of Vehicle)

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Tender Notice No. PCE/BLW(ET)/Publish/2024-25/20 **Date: 11.03.2025**
E-TENDER

Dy. Chief Engineer, Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi on behalf of the President of India invites "Open" Tender through E-Tendering from the contractors, **S. No.; Tender No.; Name of work; Tender Cost (Rs.); Earnest Money (Rs.); Time of Completion; Closing Date of Tender; Date of Opening of Tender. 1; GEM/2025/B/6047356;** Cleaning, Hospitality and Cooking Services at Officer's Rest House and Subordinate Rest House for period of two year at BLW, Varanasi under SSE/W/ADM; Rs. 68,76,121.00; Rs. 1,37,530.00; 24 Months; 05/04/2025 at 13:00 PM; 05/04/2025 at 13:30 PM. **2; BLW-WAT-ET-026-24-25;** Construction of New OPD Building including toilet etc in Central Hospital work under SSE/W/CT & Provision of power supply & electrification of OPD in Central Hospital/ BLW/Varanasi; Rs.2,86,41,164.46; Rs.2,93,200.00; 12 Months; 10/04/2025 at 15:00 PM; 10/04/2025 at 15:30 PM. **Special Notice:-** To see the detailed terms & conditions of tender and for submission of tender, please visit- "website: **http:www.ireps.gov.in**". **Dy. Chief Engineer**

Tender Notice No. PCE/BLW(ET)/Publish/2024-25/21 **Date: 12.03.2025**

Dy. Chief Engineer, Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi on behalf of the President of India invites "Open" Tender through E-Tendering from the contractors, **S. No.; Tender No.; Name of work; Tender Cost (Rs.); Earnest Money (Rs.); Time of Completion; Closing Date of Tender; Date of Opening of Tender. 1; BLW-WAT-ET-027-24-25;** Provision of replacement of AC sheet trusses & gutters in LFS,LAS and LTS under SSE/BR(North), Provision of Replacement of Trusses in Flame cutting shop in workshop area under SSE/Br./South, Replacement of AC sheet in BGMG, ML 1, 2, 5 & 6, C-32, TTC, C-ward & B shop chimney in workshop area under SSE/Br./South, Replacement of AC sheet in balance portion of B-shop bay-3 in workshop area under SSE/Br./South; Rs. 8,86,57,873.15; Rs. 5,93,300.00; 18 Months; 10/04/2025 at 15:00 PM; 10/04/2025 at 15:30 PM. **2; BLW-WAT-ET-028-24-25 ;** Provision of boundary wall in Type-III D/S qtrs. & Over head tank No. 3 under SSE/W/WT, Provision of grills over front Boundary walls of type-IV specials qtrs, raising of boundary wall to back lane side, construction of partition walls between two qtrs. & repair of garage pathway etc. repair of backlane of type-IV special qtrs from block 107-120 under SSE/W/CT in BLW, Varanasi & Repairing of Boundarywall from Nathupur Crossing to 748 block under SSE/W/WT Varanasi; Rs. 9,16,97,656.90; Rs. 6,08,500.00; 12 Months; 10/04/2025 at 15:00 PM; 10/04/2025 at 15:30 PM. **Special Notice:-** To see the detailed terms & conditions of tender and for submission of tender, please visit- "website: **http:www.ireps.gov.in**".

PR/BLW/C-19 **Dy. Chief Engineer**

/blwvaranasi **Website: blw.indianrailways.gov.in**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Usha Devi, W/o: Ravi Panjyara R/o: H. No. H-3/360, Sec - 16, Rohini, Delhi has been reported missing since 12.03.2025 at 07:52 AM from her home. In this regard DD No. 50A, dated 13.03.2025, has been registered at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.** The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Usha Devi, Age: 35 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Hair: Long, Face: Long, ID Mark: Old injury mark on nose, Wearing: Green Colour Suit Salwar and Pink Chunni & Silver colour fancy chappal in her feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing female please inform P.S. **K.N. Katju Marg**, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
DP/3233/RD/2025 **Ph: 011-27571171, 8750870327**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this Person **Named: Babu Lal Oraon, S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 40 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Oval, **Hair:** Black colour, **Wearing:** Red colour Shirt, Brown colour Lower and Chappal in feet, **Place of Recovery:** Found dead at Footpath outside parking of city centre mall, Sector-10, Rohini, Delhi on 09.03.2025. In this regard **DD No. 34A, Dated: 09.03.2025,** has been registered at P.S.: Prashant Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about identity of this person but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S.: Prashant Vihar, Delhi
DP/3282/RD/2025 **Ph.: 011-27561877, 8750870325**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Namely: Ramesh @ Patwari, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Patri Dheerpur Village,near Gauri Shankar Mandir Delhi, Age: about 45 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Medium.Wearing: White Blue Color Chekdar Shirt and Black Color Pant. who was found in BJRM Hospital Jahangirpuri, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 16-A. dated **15.03.2025** has been registered at **P.S. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceasedmay kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P.S: Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
DP/3249/NW/2025 **Ph. 8750870231**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

POOJA

General Public is hereby informed that one Girl (depicted in the photo) namely **POOJA D/o** Chander Shekhar, **R/o:** H.No. B-31, Sanjay Nagar, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi, **Age**-18 Yrs 6 Months, has been reported missing since 09.03.2025 at around 12.25 PM from her Residence, vide **DD No. 43A, Dated 11.03.2025,** registered at **Police Station South Rohini, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under:

Sex: Female, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Identification Mark:** A Mole on Lips, **Wearing:** Green Full Sleeve T-Shirt, Denim Blue Jeans, and Black Slipper on her Feet.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform to the following.

SHO,
Website: https://cbi.nic.in **Police Station South Rohini, Delhi**
DP/3339/RD/2025 **Ph.: 8750870328, 8510077872**

MANMAD MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, MANMAD

Tal. Nandgaon, Dist. Nashik| E-mail: co.manmad@gmail.com | Ph.: 02591-222328

e-Tender Notice No. 1 for 2024-25

Manmad Municipal Council invites e-Tender for the work of Manmad Under ground Drainage scheme phase- 1 & 2 Under Maharashtra Suvarn Jayanti Nagrotthan Mahabhiyan in the State of Maharashtra, valued at Rs- 231,12,17,053/- Please visit website **www.mahatenders.gov.in** for detailed information.

Date : 18/03/2025

Sd/- **Chief Officer**
Manmad Municipal Council

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Notice No. 2025-Mar-02 **dated** 13.03.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), N. C. Rly Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "**Open Tender**" through on Line only (E-Tendering) for the following works. The details of the tender are as under:

Tender No : 2025-Mar-02-01	**Approx Cost Rs. :** 6210860.07
Description of work : Bhandai - Etawah - Provision of Track Machine Stabling Siding (Bah, Fatehabad & Udi More stations) balance work	
Tender No : 2025-Mar-02-02	**Approx Cost Rs. :** 5100000.00
Description of work : Repairs & maintenance work of various Level Crossing in AGC-DHO & BHA-ETW section during year 2024-25 under jurisdiction of ADEN/DHO/Agra (balance work)	

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website "**www.ireps.gov.in**" Tenders can only be submitted through web portal "**www.ireps.gov.in**" up to **15.00** hrs on **04.04.2025** **489/25 (AS)**

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Kashish Sharma

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Kashish Sharma D/o Vikal Sharma R/o** H.No. 4/24, Gali No.4, Prem Nagar Nathupura, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 04.03.2025 at 02.00 PM from her house. In this regard a case vides **DD No. 51A** Dated **09.03.2025** has been registered at PS. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under : **Age** : 22 years, **Height** : 5'4", **Built:** Medium, **Face** : Long, **Complexion** : Whetish, **Wearing** : Blue Color Jeans and Green Color Top and Shoes in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/3034/ON/2025

SHO
P.S., Swaroop Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27811738
7065036327

MAHARAJA SRIRAM CHANDRA BHANJA DEO UNIVERSITY

Sriram Chandra Vihar, Takatpur, Baripada
Mayurbhanj - 757003

TENDER NOTICE

No.: 1471/MSCBU-19011/1/2024-STORE SEC-MSCB **Date: 13.03.2025**

Sealed two-bid tenders are invited from reputed printing firms having valid GSTIN document dealing with **"Printing and Supply of Pre-Printed Original Diploma Certificate"** to **Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Sriram Chandra Vihar, Takatpur, Baripada-757003, Odisha (MSCBU hereinafter)** in the prescribed format as per the requirements enclosed in the schedule of items given in bid documents. Bid documents with details terms & conditions can be downloaded from MSCBU website **https://www.nou.nic.in/tender.htm**

By order of Vice-Chancellor, Sd/- Registrar, MSCB University

अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर

Chamar Ka Mohalla, Ajmer, 305002, Email :- ajmerada@gmail.com,
Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627748-2627749

क्रमांक :- अविप्रा/प.2/तकनीकी/2024-25/ दिनांक :- 12/03/2025

E-TENDER - 44/2024-25

Bids for work 'Construction of Drain at Ramner Road and Purana Sarana Road at Kishangarh, Ajmer' amounting Rs. 270.60 Lacs are invited from interested bidders up to 01/04/2025, 6:00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) & (http://sppp.raj.nic.in) http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada** departmental website.

UBN No. :- AJD2425SSOB00257
Raj.Samwad/C/24/13235 **Executive Engineer**

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 02/2025

Sr. DSTE/North Central Railway, Agra acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through Online only (E-Tendering) for the following work:-

Name of work: S&T work in connection with the work of "Renewal of two Nos span (1x39.98) m & 1x18.30 m) of Kheria more ROB no. 1343/3 at AGC yard."

E-TENDER NO.	Approx. Cost of work	Tender closing date
AGRA-ST-2025-05	₹ 67,04,821.40	07.04.2025

Name of work: Comprehensive AMC of Eldyne supplied Thales Make MSDAC installed in the station MTJ, AJH, VRBD & RDE in MTJ-PWL section of Agra Division for 36 months.

E-TENDER NO.	Approx. Cost of work	Tender closing date
AGRA-ST-2025-06	₹ 2,16,70,487.28	07.04.2025

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids through web portal **www.ireps.gov.in** up to **15.00** hrs. on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **487/25 FA**

North central railways @CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

SEARCH FOR MISSING

VINOD KASHYAP

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely:** Vinod Kashyap, **S/o:** Lt. Sh. Rajan, **R/o:** 37 B, Pocket-M, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi **Sex:** Male, **Age:** 38 Years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, has been missing from his house since 07.03.2025. In this regard **DD No. 58A** dated 11.03.2025 has been registered at **P.S.: Sarita Vihar, New Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing person. Please inform to the following.

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/3120/SE/2025

SHO
P.S.: Sarita Vihar, New Delhi
Ph.: 8750870921, 8368449311

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website : www.pspcl.in (Phone No. 01881-275289)
E-mail : se-hq-ggsstp-ropar@pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 7662/P-2/EMP-12950 **Dated 04.03.2025**

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2025_POWER_136128_1 for Procurement of Rotary Electronic position Transmitters along with mounting sets at GGSSTP, Rupnagar.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 10.03.2025 onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

RTP-34/25, DPR/Pb.:76155/12/4021/2023/42633

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Muskan D/o** Krishan **R/o** H.No. C-6/89, Gali No. 3, Sadatpur, Karawal Nagar, Delhi, **Age:** 19 years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **ID Mark:** The little finger of whose left hand is bent, wearing Black colour Legi and Pink colour Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from her house since 10.03.2025 at 9:00 AM. In this regard a **DD No. 51A, dated 12.03.2025 has been registered at P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : http':://cbi.nic.in
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi**

SHO
DP/3261/NE/2025 **Ph. No.: 011-22962735, 8750870727**

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation

E-Procurement Notice
Notice Invitation Tender

1. The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB), Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation, invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in Two Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible bidders on **15.03.2025 at 18.00 Hrs**

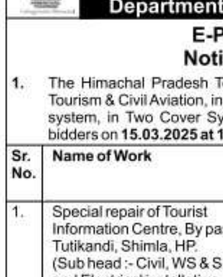
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (INR)	EMD (INR)	Tender cost (INR)	Time period
1.	Special repair of Tourist Information Centre, By pass, Tutikandi, Shimla, HP. (Sub head :- Civil, WS & SI and Electrical installation work).	45,53,866/-	91,000/-	2000/-	6 months
2.	Document download start and time	18.03.2025 at 18:00 Hrs.			
3.	Deadline for bid submission & original documents	03.04.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.			
4.	Time and date of opening of technical bid	03.04.2025 at 11.30 Hrs.			

2. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission :** All other details regarding bid documents are available online. Bids should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in.
3. Date of opening of technical bids followed by Opening of Financial Bids (Will be later intimated to all technically responsive bidders).

Director,
Tourism & Civil Aviation,
Block No. 28, SDA Complex,
Kasumpti, Shimla-9.
Ph: 0177-2659962.
E-mail- sepmu.adbhp@gmail.com.

Advt.No.:-1287/17/03/2025.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this Person **Named: Unknown, S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 35 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **ID Mark:** A Tatoo of Bhola, Annu and sign of Heart on right hand, **Wearing:** Orange colour Shirt & Black colour Pant, **Place of Recovery:** Found unconscious condition under Banyan tree in Partap Nagar Metro Station, Parking No. 2 and after Medical Examination, he was declared dead by cat. In this regard **DD No. 27A, U/s 194-BNSS, 2023, Dated: 16.03.2025,** has been registered at P.S.: Netaji Subhash Place Metro, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about identity of this person but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S.: Netaji Subhash Place Metro, Delhi
DP/3312/Metro/2025 **Ph.: 9654613895**

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
242513 007283	Procurement of Filler Grade Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit-I	24.03.2025
242513 007292	Procurement of Sodium Silicate - Alkaline for Unit-I	31.03.2025
242513 007296	Procurement of Imported Burnt Lime for Production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (WPCC)	31.03.2025
242513 007297	Procurement of TNPL Copier A4 70, 75 & 80 GSM 10 Reams Carton Lid and Tray.	31.03.2025
Email	242513007283 ; 7292 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 242513007296 ; 7297 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1046/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age**: about 45-50 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Black Shirt & Black color ki Jacket and Cream Color Pant was found Malkaganj chock Near Bus Stop Delhi on 10.03.2025 at 12.02 PM. In this regard **DD No.16A dated 10.03.2025** has been lodged at PS: Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far.

Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Subzi Mandi, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23823161
DP/3297/N/2025 **8750870126**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website : www.pspcl.in (Phone No. 01881-275289)
E-mail : se-hq-ggsstp-ropar@pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 606/P-2/EMPW-12957 Dated 07.03.2025

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2025_POWER_136171_1 for Work of reclamation spilled coal / biomass in CHP, GGSSTP, Rupnagar.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 07.03.2025 onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

RTP-35/25, DPR/Pb.:76155/12/4022/2023/42637

MAN VERSUS BIG CATS

Psychologist kills leopard, saves pet dog's life in Maha

Rahul.Gayakwad@timesofindia.com

iStock/Photo for representation

MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

Kolhapur: A 55-year-old psychologist fought off a leopard for 15 minutes and killed it to save his pet dog at home in Chiplun area of Maharashtra's Ratnagiri.

Ashish Mahajan suffered grievous injuries during the confrontation in the wee hours of Sunday in Tondali-Vareli village and is now recuperating in hospital. His family described his condition as stable.

Early that morning, Mahajan heard his dog's barks and stepped out of the house to check, torch in hand. He soon spotted the leopard about to pounce on the dog. He tried to shoo the big cat away but it charged at him instead.

"Hearing his screams, Mahajan's wife Supriya ran out and managed to throw a pointed spear to him. Mahajan clasped it and hit the leopard in the neck and chest," Tushar Wagh, a friend of Mahajan, said.

Cornered in the tight space, the leopard was unable to flee and pounced on Mahajan multiple times before slumping because of its injuries. "When we went to the spot and examined the dead animal, we found it was a female aged approximately two years. The leopard had wounds on its chest, legs, and neck," Ratnagiri divisional forest officer Girija Desai-Patil said.

According to the official, Mahajan will be compensated for hospital expenses. "People in the area have been requested to stay alert when venturing out," Desai-Patil said.

Mahajan used to work in Pune earlier but shifted to the scenic Chiplun village two years ago to ensure he and his family had a more sustainable lifestyle.

Man fights off tiger, becomes a hero in Maha village overnight

Mazhar Ali | TNN

Chandrapur: Govardhan Dange may or may not have watched Amitabh Bachchan take on a tiger in Mr Natwarlal. But the 42-year farmer has just earned his stripes to carry the 1979 blockbuster's name as a well-deserved moniker, having fought off a tiger in Maharashtra's Chandrapur and lived to tell the tale.

Dange's unbelievable act of bravery unfolded Sunday in Nandgaon Jani village of Brahmapuri taluka, turning him into a local hero overnight as villagers have started affectionately calling him "Mr Natwarlal". The presence of tigers in villages bordering north Brahmapuri Forest Range is a common occurrence, so much so that their roars no longer startle locals.

Dange started Sunday with a routine task — irrigating his paddy field — but it soon turned into a matter of survival. While he was at work, the tiger, crouching in the vicinity, pounced on him. Although he was caught completely off guard, Dange did not freeze in fear and fought back with all his might. The tiger buried its canines into Dange's cheek, leaving a long tear. Dange refused to give up. The struggle continued for 10 minutes with Dange suffering multiple injuries. He finally wriggled out of the big cat's clutches, spotted a well nearby and scaled down into it, saving himself from further blows.

From the safety of the well, he called his son for help. By the time his son and other villagers arrived, the tiger had retreated into the jungles. Forest officials rushed Dange to a rural hospital, where he received treatment and is now stable.

In its 1st major hit in Pak this year, IS kills cleric

Rajshekhar.Jha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the killing of Mufti Abdul Baqi Noorzai, a senior functionary of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), who was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Quetta in Pakistan's Balochistan, on Sunday night.

Sources said the Deobandi cleric suffered life-threatening injuries from the gunfire that took place on airport road and was rushed to hospital. He died from his wounds en route to hospital, as confirmed by the medical facility's officials, in what marked the first major IS strike in Pakistan in 2025.

The attack comes on the heels of assassination of senior Deobandi figures, JuI functionaries Mufti Shah Mir and Hamidul Haq. While Mir was shot, Haq and a dozen others were killed in a suicide bombing at the Darul Uloom Haqqania aka 'University of Jihad'.

There has been no breakthrough in these cases, with investigators also looking into any link to the IS, which has declared war on the Taliban, a Deobandi organisation, in Afghanistan.

The Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) has been increasing its activities in Pakistan, posing significant security challenges to the country. The group's emergence has created a spiral of terrorist violence, driven by ideological and sectarian conflicts as well as personal interests and dynamics of revenge.

ISI under fire after IED blast kills cleric known for criticism of Pakistani state

Rajshekhar.Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The ISI has come under fire after firebrand cleric Mufti Munir Shakir, a known critic of the Pak state was killed in an IED attack in Peshawar two days ago. At his funeral, Mufti's son directly blamed Pakistani intelligence for his death and thousands chanted slogans against the military and the Pak army, accusing them of targeting Pashtuns.

A video of the funeral surfaced on X on Monday showing the funeral ground echoing with slogans like "Yeh Col, General...dehshatgard...Yeh jo dehshatgardi hai iske piche vardi hai... (These Colonels, Generals are terrorists; uniforms are backing this terrorism)"

A statement from the Peshawar police spokesperson had earlier said that Shakir was injured on his left foot in a blast that took place in the vicinity of Urmur Police Station on March 15. A case was registered at the Counter Terrorism Department police station against 'unknown militants'.

Sources said that an improvised explosive device (IED), containing approximately 600 grams of explosives, was planted near the gate of a mosque and detonated as Mufti Shakir entered the premises.

Video footage at the time of the explosion shows he was accompanied by two others at the time of the blast.

Known for using FM radio to propagate his thoughts, Mufti Munir Shakir had in the past often called out the Pakistani establishment for misusing Islam for their own gains.

Shakir had founded a rebel outfit named Lashkar-e-Islam in 2004, in Bara, Khyber district and had ties to the Deobandi sub-sect Panjpiri besides being associated with an organisation "Ishaat-e-Tauheed".

New militant group puts Pak forces on notice, identifies them as primary target

In what could worsen Pakistan's internal security challenge, a new militant group, Harqat Inqilab Islami Pakistan (IIP), announced its presence in Pakistan on Monday with group's leader, Ghazi Shahabuddin, releasing a eight-minute video, surrounded by dozens of masked and armed militants, identifying Pakistani security forces as their primary target, reports **Rajshekhar Jha**. Shahabuddin declared that it would focus its operations in Pakistan and was open to collaborating with other militant groups in the region. Sources here said that the outfit is likely an al-Qaida offshoot which has been on an offensive against Pakistan. The move comes weeks after another new militant group, Jaish-e-Umari, emerged in north Waziristan claiming to have the backing of over 1,000 fighters.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, बरेली
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

पत्रांक: 77/प्र0अधि0/एस0डब्लू0एम0/2024-25 दिनांक: 17 मार्च 2025

नगर निगम, बरेली द्वारा सथरापुर स्थित सॉलिड वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट प्लाण्ट स्थल पर प्रसंस्करण सयंत्र स्थापन एवं प्लाण्ट के संचालन / रख-रखाव (Request For Proposal for setting up of 500 TPD Municipal Solid Waste Processing facility at Sathrapur In Nagar Nigam Bareilly) कार्य हेतु पुनः ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जा रही है। उक्त ई-निविदा को उत्तर प्रदेश की ई-प्रक्योरमेण्ट की वेबासाईट http://etender.up.nic.in एवं नगर निगम की वेबसाइट www.nagarnigambareilly.com पर देखा जा सकता है। शासनादेश संख्या-4848/ नौ-5-2018-470 सा/ 2018 नगर विकास अनुभाग-5 लखनऊ दिनांक 10 दिसम्बर, 2018 के क्रम में निविदा शुल्क + GST ऑनलाईन आर0टी0जी0एस0 के माध्यम से E-TENDER BNN/NAGAR NIGAM BAREILLY के नाम नगर निगम कोष में नगर निगम, बरेली के खाता संख्या 3647000100980707 तथा आई0एफ0एस0सी0 कोड- PUNB0364700 पंजाब नेशनल बैंक में जमा किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा, जिसकी स्कैन कॉपी टेण्डर के साथ अपलोड करनी होगी। जमानत राशि बी0जी0/ एफ0डी0आर0 के माध्यम से नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, बरेली के नाम बंधक होगी। जिसकी स्कैन कॉपी टेण्टर अपलोड करते समय अपलोड करनी होगी। निविदाकताओं से अनुरोध है कि वे अपनी तकनीकी और वित्तीय निविदा केवल ऑनलाइन माध्यम से ही प्रस्तुत करें।

Schedule of Activities:-

Sr. No.	Activity Description	Date & Time
01	Issue & Download of RFP	20.03.2025 (12:00 PM)
02	Pre Bid Meeting	27.03.2025 (03:00 PM)
03	Due Date of Bid - Submission	09.04.2025 (05:00 PM)
04	Opening of Technical Bid	11.04.2025 (12:00 PM)
05	Opening of Financial BID	After Technical Evaluation

कार्यों का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम बरेली के वेबसाईट **www.nagarnigambareilly.com** पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाइट तथा **RFP** डाक्यूमेंट पर देखी जा सकती है।

(राजीव कुमार राठी)
प्रभारी अधिकारी (एस0डब्लू0एम0)
नगर निगम, बरेली।

नगर निगम, प्रयागराज।
ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम के केन्द्रीय कर्मशाल में उपलब्ध 130 अदद साइकिल माउण्टेड फॉगिंग मशीनों के कम्प्रेहेन्सिव मेन्टेनेन्स के कार्य हेतु डुअल बिड ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, विस्तृत विवरण निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट में उपलब्ध रहेगा। निविदा प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश की ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in से प्राप्त एवं देखे जा सकते हैं। निविदा के साथ मांग की गयी जमानत की धनराशि एफ0डी0आर0/आर0टी0जी0एस0 रसीद की स्कैन कॉपी के रूप में संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा, जो मुख्य अभियन्ता (वि/यां), नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के नाम प्लेन्ड होगा। बिना जमानत की धनराशि के निविदा अवैध मानी जायेगी। निविदा प्रकाशन के निर्धारित तिथि तक निविदा शुल्क की धनराशि नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के इण्डस्ट्रण्ड बैंक, सिविल लाइन्स, प्रयागराज शाखा में टेन्डर कॉस्ट खाता संख्या-100116210130 व IFSCode-INDB0000124 में जमा करना होगा। जिसकी रसीद तथा जमानत धनराशि के एफ0डी0आर0/आर0टी0जी0एस0 रसीद की स्कैन कॉपी निविदा के साथ अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा। उक्त की अनुपस्थिति में निविदा अवैध मानी जायेगी। किसी भी समय निविदा स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार नगर आयुक्त महोदय को सुरक्षित होगा। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि को किसी कारणवश अवकाश होने पर निविदा तिथि अगला कार्य-दिवस मानी जायेगी।

निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करने की तिथि	20.03.2025	अपरान्ह 02.00 बजे से
निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि	07.04.2025	अपरान्ह 02.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तिथि	07.04.2025	सायंकाल 4.00 बजे तक

क्र. सं.	कार्य/वाहन का विवरण	निविदा फार्म का मूल्य	धरोहर की धनराशि
1	130 अदद साइकिल माउण्टेड फॉगिंग मशीनों के कम्प्रेहेन्सिव मेन्टेनेन्स सम्बन्धी कार्य।	1000/- + 18% GST = 1180/-	50,000/-

नोटः- नियम व शर्तों का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध रहेगा।

मुख्य अभियन्ता (वि/यां)
नगर निगम, प्रयागराज।

Govt. of Bihar

Cabinet Secretariat Department
(Directorate of Aviation)
Patna Airport, Patna – 800014.

TEL. No:- 0612-2225659, 2224423
Fax 0612 2224614
e-mail-cadbihar@bihar.gov.in

Letter. No: वा०सं०नि० (विविध) 05–01/2025- *1558*

CORRIGENDUM

(PR.NO.020218 (Cabinet) 2024-25)

CHANGE IN LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF TENDER

With reference to our Tender Ref. No.- वा०सं०नि० (विविध) 05–01/2025–1499 published on date 24.02.2025 for hiring of one 8+2 seating capacity VIP/VVIP Configuration twin Engine Helicopter on wet lease for a period of 12 Months.

Due to unavoidable Circumstances:-

We hereby revise last date of submission of tender to 25.03.2023 at 05:00 PM.

If required interested and qualified agencies may send their queries through mail cadbihar@bihar.gov.in

For detailed notification or further updates, kindly visit the website- www.state.bihar.gov.in/csds

Other terms and conditions of the tender published in PR.NO.020218 (Cabinet) 2024-25 will remain unchanged.

This bears approval of the Competent Authority.

PR- 21985 (C S D) 2024-25

(Akhilesh Kumar Singh)
Administrative Officer

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 18.03.2025

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/25-26/ FK/CR/SS/1262	RAIN WATER HARVESTING SYSTEM AT VARIOUS OFFICE BUILDINGS IN BRPL.	3.53 Crore	1 Lakh	07.04.2025 15:00 HRS	07.04.2025 15:15 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document : : ₹ 1180/-

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 I Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4910 7235 I Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

नगर निगम वाराणसी

Varanasi Municipal Corporation,
Nagar Nigam Mukhyalaya, Sigra, Varanasi-221002 (Uttar Pradesh)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

NIT No.:- 42O/T/VSCL/TENDER/2024-25 Date: 12.03.025

The Municipal Commissioner, Varanasi Nagar Nigam invites short-term online tender for the below mentioned work:

S. No.	Name of Works	Tender Fees (Non-Refundable)	Earnest Money Deposit
1.	Supply of Drain Master amphibian drain cleaning machines 01 nos. for mechanical removal of sludge, silt, debris and floating waste from open drains in Varanasi Municipal Corporation."	Rs. 5,000/- + 18% GST = (Rs. 5,900/-)	Rs. 3,54,000/

The prospective bidders may download the detailed Tender/RFP document in this regard from e-tender website- https://etender. up.nic.in from 17.03 2025 at 1600 Hrs. (IST) to 07.04.2025 till 1600 Hrs. (IST). Bidders are requested to submit the Tender Fees and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) as per the details mentioned in the RFP Document and submit the proof of payments with Technical Bid. For queries, if any, email: mcvns1@gmail.com or mail@varanasi smartcity.gov.in latest by 24.03.2025 till 1400 Hrs. (IST).

Important Dates:

- Pre-bid Meeting: 24.03.2025 at 1500 Hrs. (IST)
- Last Date & Time of Online Bid Submission: 07.04.2025 till 1600 Hrs. (IST)
- Last Date & Time of Hard Copy Bid Submission: 07.04.2025 at 1630 Hrs. (IST)
- Date & Time for Online Technical Bid Opening: 07.04.2025 at 1700 Hrs. (IST)

(Akshat Verma) *IAS*
Municipal Commissioner,
Varanasi Municipal Commissioner

ONLINE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST INVITED FOR PARTNERSHIP WITH SANT SHIROMANI RAVIDAS GLOBAL SKILLS PARK

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has set up Sant Shiromani Ravidas Global Skills Park (SSRGSP) at Bhopal under the "Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project" with the financial support of the Asian Development Bank. The project aims to equip the youth of Madhya Pradesh with advanced skills relevant to the international level to meet the emerging demands in the priority manufacturing and services sectors.

The training programs of SSRGSP are delivered through the Centre for Occupational Skills Acquisition (COSA). There are two ways of program delivery COSA-1 & COSA-2.

COSA-1 Programs are developed by knowledge partners and delivered by SSRGSP. Typically, these programs are long-term (6-12 months duration).

COSA-2 Programs are industry-led training programs. These programs will be developed and operated by reputed private companies, Academic institutes, and PSUs. The main purpose of these courses is to provide demand-driven courses for market needs.

For **COSA-2,** SSRGSP shall provide necessary training infrastructure (Shell Space) and other basic amenities and these courses will be operated by partners on Revenue/Profit sharing basic.

Online Expression Of Interest (EOI) applications from interested parties are invited from reputed private sector organisations; Academic institutions, Industry lead foundations and Government (both central and state) Training institutes/Advanced Training Institutes/Centre of Excellence/Tool rooms for partnership with SSR Global Skills Park to design & operate Skill Development programs to be housed in COSA-2.

This is a rolling advertisement and all the submitted expressions will be evaluated monthly or as per the decision of the CEO, SSRGSP.

For more details, please visit www.globalskillspark.in or reach us at direxrel.gspbhopal@mp.gov.in.

G-24443/24

Chief Executive Officer
Sant Shiromani Ravidas Global Skills Park
Bhopal

"पॉक्सो है सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर न करें अत्याचार"

SANT SHIROMANI RAVIDAS
GLOBAL SKILLS PARK
Hazrat Nizamuddin Colony Road, Narela Shankari, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh- 462022
ceo.gspbhopal@mp.gov.in direxrel.gspbhopal@mp.gov.in 0755-2706205

O-1612

E-Mail: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR
No. 886 /RWCSBP //Dated. 19/03/2025
1St Corrigendum
Bid Identification No Road Tender Online RwcSBP-20/2024-25

Following modifications are hereby made to the notice inviting tender vide this office Bid ID No. Road Tender Online RWCSBP-20/2024-25 for the work "Construction of road from Kaudiapali to Badpati via Balbaspur road under MMSY-CMRL scheme in the dist. of Sambalpur for the year 2024-25."

1. The period of completion in calender month may be read as 09 months instead of 06 months.

All other terms and condition remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur
OIPR-25091/11/0046/24-25

O-1616

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po-Ambapua, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail :- serwbpr_2004@yahoo.com, Tel No. - 0680-2404287)

E-Mail/E-despatch

No. e-tender // 860 // RWC// BAM // Dated. 17.03.25
2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender/31-2024-25/BPR

1) The partial modification of Buildings works vide above identification has been made as follows.

1	Date of availability of tender	:	**28.03.2025 to 11.04.2025 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 11.03.2025 to 25.03.2025 upto 5.30 PM.
2	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	:	**09.04.2025 at 5.30 PM** instead of 21.03.2025 at 5.30 PM
3	Date of opening of Technical Bid.	:	**15.04.2025 at 11.00 AM** instead of 26.03.2025 at 11.00 AM
4	Date of opening of Financial Bid	:	**Will be intimated later on.**

All other contents will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W.Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-25071/11/0066/24-25

A-1204

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT
BHUBANESWAR
Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022
E-Mail: cemlpwr.od@gmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 13ML/2024-25

On Line open tender is invited for EPC Contract (Turn Key Basis) for Mega Lift, Odisha

1. **Name of Work**: Operation and Maintenance of existing 13 nos. schemes with intake points on Tel Basin having command area between 500 Ha. to 2000 Ha. in Megalift **Cluster-XIV** in the districts of Kalahandi & Bolangir comprising all electro-mechanical & instrumentation equipments installed in pump house & MCC room including pumps and motors, switchyard & Transmission lines, intake well, Sump well, Rising main, Distribution chamber, Gravity main, complete distribution network by UGPL covering culturable command area of 14069.84 Ha. with operation of maintenance of all its 13 completed schemes including its power system connectivity, proper distribution of water to the ayacut including watch & ward with testing and calibration of all electro-mechanical components before the start of each irrigation period in the O & M period of 10 years on "Turn-key basis".
2. **O & M Period**: 120 (One hundred twenty) calendar months.
3. **Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal** : 21.03.2025, 10 A.M.
4. **Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal** : 04.04.2025 up to 5.00 P.M
5. **Name & address of the officer inviting Bid** : Chief Engineer, Megalift, A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751022

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**"

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Megalift
Bhubaneswar
OIPR-32504/11/0027/24-25

उत्तराखण्ड सरकार
कार्यालय महानिदेशक, सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड
सूचना भवन लाडपुर रिंग रोड, देहरादून।
E-mail: infodg.uk@gmail.com, dg-infor-uk@nic.in दूरभाष : 0135-2662971/ फैक्स: 2662334

पत्रांक : 213/सू.एवं लो.सं.वि.(विज्ञा0) 04/2003 देहरादून दिनांक : 17 मार्च, 2025

रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति (EOI)

इस विभाग द्वारा सरकार की नीतियों एवं जनकल्याणकारी योजनाओं का समय-समय पर समाचार पत्रों में विज्ञापनों के माध्यम से प्रचारित-प्रसारित करने के उद्देश्य से प्रकाशित होने वाली विज्ञापन सामग्री के डिजाइन, कंटेट क्रियेशन एवं लेखन आदि कार्य हेतु INS से पंजीकृत एजेंसियों से रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति (EOI) पत्र संख्या 157/सू.एवं.लों.सं.वि. (विज्ञा0) 04/2003, दिनांक 04 फरवरी, 2025 आमंत्रित की गई थी समिति द्वारा उक्त कार्य के लिए 04 एजेन्सियों को सफल घोषित किया गया है।

चूंकि वर्तमान में प्रिंट मीडिया के कार्य में अत्याधिक वृद्धि होने के दृष्टिगत विभाग को उक्त कार्य हेतु पर्याप्त मात्रा में एजेंसियां उपलब्ध नहीं हो पायी है। अतः **समिति द्वारा सर्वसम्मति से यह निर्णय लिया गया है कि कार्य की महत्ता के दृष्टिगत चयनित 04 एजेन्सियों को छोडते हुए इस कार्य हेतु पुनः एजेन्सियों से रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति (EOI) प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित की जाने की संस्तुति की गई है।**

इस क्रम में उक्त कार्य हेतु पुनः एजेंसियों से रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति (EOI) प्रस्ताव निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित किये जाते है:-

Sn.	Particular	Date
1	**Date of availability of EOI Document on website**	18 March, 2025 10.30 AM
2	**EOI Submission online Start Date**	18 March, 2025 3.30 PM
3	**Venue for EOI related work**	Information & Public Relation Department, Suchna Bhawan, Ladpur, Ring Road Dehradun, Uttarakhand
4	**EOI documents is also available at**	http//www.uktenders.gov.in
5	**Last date of online EOI submission**	25 March, 2025 05.00 PM
6	**Opening Date of EOI**	26 March, 2025 11.00 AM

नोटः उक्त रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति **(EOI)** से संबंधित सभी सूचनाएं http://www.uktenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 18.03.2025 से उपलब्ध रहेगी। यदि उपरोक्त दर्शायी गई तिथियों में से किसी तिथि को अवकाश घोषित होता है तो ऐसी दशा में उसके अगले कार्य दिवस को उक्त तिथि माना जायेगा।

Sd/-
महानिदेशक, सूचना

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008.Phone:28191890/28190259; Fax: 044 -28190636

Sl. No.	Online Tender No. with qty./ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Submission	Opening
1	E1300/LMOT/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, dt:14.03.2025 – Supply and Installation of LMO Tanks (23) – Rs. 5,725	18.03.2025 to 26.03.2025	22.03.2025 11.00 AM	27.03.2025 11.00 AM	27.03.2025 12.00 Noon
2	E1301/PWS/RC/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, dt:14.03.2025 – Patient Warming System (6) – Rs. 2,290	18.03.2025 to 02.04.2025	25.03.2025 11.00 AM	03.04.2025 11.00 AM	03.04.2025 12.00 Noon
3	E1302/VERT//TNMSC/ENGG/2025, dt:14.03.2025 – Vertigo lab equipment (1) – Rs. 5,725	18.03.2025 to 02.04.2025	25.03.2025 11.30 AM	03.04.2025 11.00 AM	03.04.2025 12.00 Noon
4	E1303/WEIGH/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, dt:14.03.2025 – Baby weighing machine (164) – Rs. 2,290	18.03.2025 to 02.04.2025	25.03.2025 12.00 Noon	03.04.2025 11.00 AM	03.04.2025 12.00 Noon
5	E1304/PT/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, dt:14.03.2025 Single Surface Phototherapy (152), Double Surface Phototherapy (19) – Rs. 5,725	19.03.2025 to 03.04.2025	26.03.2025 11.00 AM	04.04.2025 11.00 AM	04.04.2025 12.00 Noon
6	E1305/SPECT/RC/DME_MMC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, dt:14.03.2025 – Spectrophotometer (5) – Rs. 5,725	19.03.2025 to 03.04.2025	26.03.2025 11.30 AM	04.04.2025 11.00 AM	04.04.2025 12.00 Noon
7	E1306/ECHO/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2025, dt:14.03.2025 – ECHO Machine (13) – Rs. 5,725	19.03.2025 to 03.04.2025	26.03.2025 12.00 Noon	04.04.2025 11.00 AM	04.04.2025 12.00 Noon

For details visit **www.tntenders.gov.in** and TNMSC website **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in**
DIPR/1045/TENDER/2025

GENERAL MANAGER (EQUIPMENT)

O-1615

E-Mail - sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in
Ph. No.06764 - 236404

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
Tender Call Notice for Building work in Odisha
Bid Identification No. Building Online AGL- 26/2024-25

No. 909 // **Dt.12.03.2025 //**

1. Name of the work : Building work
2. Total No. of work : 1 No.
3. Estimated cost : Rs. 754.02 Lakh Approx.
4. Class of Contractor : 'A' & Special Class
5. Period of completion. : 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
6. Other details.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Building- Online-AGL-26/2024-25	24.03.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	07.04.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	05.04.2025 up to 1.00 P.M.	08.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later on

(1) For detailed Notice inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/- **Anup Kumar Behera**
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Angul
OIPR-25180/11/0041/24-25

A thought for today

All war represents a failure of diplomacy

TONY BENN

Find The Connect

Why Modi's approach to Trump, seen again in a podcast, is diplomatically astute

Modi's three-hour podcast with MIT scientist Lex Fridman ranged over many themes, and had some strong pointers on diplomacy. While diplomacy has always been about achieving your ends tactfully, without resorting to conflict, recent times have been marked by a reluctance to talk – and even when two sides sit across the table, coarseness of dialogue. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, China's manoeuvres on India's border, Canada baiting India, the Trump-Zelenskyy White House fiasco, Vance hectoring Europe, all fit this mould. And they fail because they push the idea of "mine before thine", taking without giving, like children.

Modi made it clear in the podcast that he also approaches diplomacy with India's interests foremost, but where he differed is in appreciating the other side's view. That's what grown-ups do. When Trump raised tariffs, Canada, Mexico and China retaliated. Europe has taken the same path. And for all practical purposes, we are in the early days of a trade war. But India has resisted the temptation to draw its gun. It has reasoned and negotiated. Modi's remark that Trump and he connect because they put their nations first may seem ho-hum, obvious. It may even seem paradoxical in the current global atmosphere. But it isn't. Solutions to tricky world challenges, be it Ukraine or Gaza or Trump's tariffs, can only be found when you see where the other side's coming from. What is the least they will accept to retreat, what is the most you can gain by losing some? A win-win, not a zero-sum game.

The take-no-prisoners approach to diplomacy fails because it starts by drawing a hard mine/thine line. Indian philosophy lays down a wiser path – approach a mutual problem without the distinction of mine and thine. The practice of *samta yog* – looking for essential commonalities, not apparent differences, seeing everything as a part of a larger whole – opens the mind to the bigger picture. The intent is no longer to start an argument but to find a solution. This understanding is not a sign of "softness". As Modi stressed on his Washington trip last month: "I appreciate that he (Trump) always keeps the national interest supreme. Like President Trump, it is a great fortune for me to keep the interests of India supreme and work." He's made the same point again, without riling Trump. In fact, Trump seems to appreciate Modi's view, and shared the podcast on his Truth Social handle. It's a positive start for negotiations on the many thorny issues between India and US.

Raising Aravalis

Green wall projects have a bad rep, Africa to China. India can learn and do the basics better

Two years ago this month, GOI launched the Aravali green wall project, to create a 5km tree line in four states, a buffer against Thar desert pushing eastwards. As hard as getting a lock on what the project's accomplished in the interim is, the need for it certainly feels more urgent than ever. Dust storms battering north India are just one of the several weather flags for the ICU-like conditions of the Aravalis. But even as the felt need for the green wall project grows, so do questions.

For example, what has it delivered for Africa, from which India has taken inspiration? In parts, such as in Niger, a lot of land has regained arability. But overall, funding and logistical difficulties have been massive stumbling blocks. As one sceptic has put it, if all the trees that had been planted in the Sahara since the early 1980s had survived, it would look like Amazonia. India likewise will have to overcome a historically poor correlation between planting saplings and growing trees. Plus, in deeply fragmented Aravalis, it will be hard to come by the 11,500 sqkm land area to be covered, about nine times the size of Delhi.

China's green wall projects have seen local officials rush to plant trees to meet targets, rather than paying attention to ecology or local engagement. All these sombre cases are cited not to discourage the Indian project, but to say that it must be more wisely executed – and to underline the necessity of doing the standard environmental toil instead of just focusing on fancier stuff. The illegal mining that's decimated one-fourth of Aravali range in Rajasthan within 50 years, for example, persists unchecked – with FIRs alone translating to more than six incidents a day in 2024. Afforestation seems a creature of the clouds, when deforestation is so rampant.

Press and release

What tourists in Japan rave about – not its poetry or pottery or cherry blossoms

Jairam N Menon

Whatever the Japanese do, they don't rest till they perfect. Give them a mountain and they will come back with the impossibly symmetrical Mt Fujiyama. Give them a train and they will take it apart, muffle the rattling parts, infuse it with rocket science, and give us the Shinkansen. But impressive as all these things are, it is universally – if discreetly – acknowledged that nothing offers as much comfort in privacy as the room known by its many euphemisms – washroom, toilet, cloak, the gents, the John. Or as the Japanese call it, *otearai*.

A Japanese toilet is a multi-sensory experience. Tech is at hand to assist you from the minute you enter the room right till the finishing touch. There are buttons for every conceivable function – to regulate flow of water, to control direction of said water's twirl, and even to switch on piped Tchaikovsky should you so desire. It may not qualify as one of the wonders of the world, but it certainly is a wonder among WCs, a loo that belongs at Louvre.

Where did it all begin? A story goes that it's the apotheosis of an ancient Japanese quest to blend form with function. Nothing of the sort. It was imported in rudimentary form from the West in the last century, and adapted to the needs of a progressive society, proving conclusively that *aatmanirbarta* has its limits.

Given its nature, the *benjo*, as it's colloquially known, cannot feature as one of the 'sights' of a country. The Japanese haven't even got to a brochure. I suppose it's native modesty that inhibits them from shouting from the rooftops about the wondrous features on offer in hotel rooms. They leave such publicity to foreign tourists who come to squat but remain to applaud.

Living as we do in an age of anxiety, the morning newspapers are sure to bring unsettling tidings. Well, no matter what troubling headlines you encounter, you know you can count on the *kawaya* to ensure that all's well that ends well. Maybe your Japanese hosts would consider it disrespectful that you return from a tour of their land, neglecting their gossamer poetry and pottery or their famed cherry blossoms in your compliments. Yes, these are all certainly exquisite. But at the end of the day, or more often at the beginning of it, we have our individual preferences. And my vote goes to the *otearai*. Thank you, Japan. *Aarigato*.

North-South Formula

For delimitation & GOI resource sharing, cutoff should be 2011 population. Delimitation should be a 20-yr process starting 2031, with 20% adjustment every 5 yrs

Duvvuri Subbarao

Talk of delimitation of Parliament seats post-2026 has deepened an already existing north-south cleavage. Southern states have long been aggrieved that they are penalised for their better performance on population control as that has meant a reduction in their relative share of central transfers. Now on top of that, in the event of a fresh delimitation based on a post-2026 Census, they face the prospect of losing their relative share in Parliament representation.

At the heart of this putative double whammy for the south – declining central transfers and decline in political clout – is population. Recall that a few months ago both Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra CM, and Stalin, his Tamil Nadu counterpart, had urged their peoples to have more babies. Although the two CMs nuanced the issue differently, the underlying message was clear: don't penalise states that have succeeded in population control. If you do, we have no alternative but to grow our populations.

Politics and economics are mixed in these tensions. Take economics first. There are several routes through which central resources flow to states. Population enters as a variable either directly or indirectly in determining a state's share in each of these flows.

The most structured of these is finance commission transfers whereby Centre gives away 41 paise out of every rupee it collects to states. The horizontal distribution of this 41 paise across states is determined by a formula in which most variables are scaled by population – the larger a state's population, the higher its share.

Finance commissions have historically been mandated to use the 1971 population numbers so as not to perversely incentivise states to neglect family planning with an eye on a higher share of tax devolution. This long-standing norm was changed when the 15th Finance Commission, appointed in 2017, was asked to use the 2011 population numbers in working out its recommendations. States that had done well in stabilising populations, typically southern states, protested against this change in the base year, calling it a 'penalty for good performance'.

Possibly taking a lesson from that, the 16th Finance Commission appointed in 2023 has not been given any specific mandate on what population figures to use. It is very unlikely though that they will revert to the 1971 numbers.

The second major route for central resource support to states is centrally sponsored schemes (CSS). Here again, the share of a state in the total CSS pool is largely driven by its population although in a less structured way than finance commission transfers.

Chad Crowe (USA)

Central public investment via soft infra (example: an IIT or an AIIMS) and hard infra (example: roads, ports) is another major route for central resource flow to states. This is the most politically driven segment of central support and is obviously influenced by vote banks. States with larger populations tend to corner more benefits.

All in all, states with larger populations tend to get privileged in central resource support to states. As population growth rates have diverged in recent decades, states that have done well on population control have begun to hurt more.

Let us turn to the political dimension – delimitation of Parliament seats. In order not to disincentivise the small family norm, delimitation of Parliament seats on the basis of population was frozen for 25 years in 1976, and again for another 25 years by the Vajpayee govt in 2001. The big question now is: Will a BJP-run Centre force delimitation in order to expand and consolidate BJP's advantage in the north?

Both the politics and economics of these tensions are ticklish. Pushing southern states into reversing population control will be decidedly ill-advised. The reality is that at the national level, we still have a population problem. At 1.45 billion, our population continues to be above the carrying capacity of our ecosystem.

We need no more evidence of this than what we see and experience every day – our squalid slums and squatter settlements, our crowded cities and clogged streets, drying lakes and dying rivers, barren hilltops, toxic air and polluted water. If anything, we should continue to emphasise population control, especially in states where fertility rates are above replacement levels.

One possible solution to this conundrum would be to set the 2011 population as the new norm for both central resource transfers and for delimitation, and freeze it at that level for the next 25 years.

The delimitation should be gradual with a 20% adjustment every five years starting 2031. So, delimitation based on 2011 population will take full effect by 2051.

Let me end on a positive note. Centre-state tensions are not unique to India; every large federation is roiled by them. In comparison, the way we manage unity in diversity is in fact a cause for celebration.

We can resolve the present confrontation too. But it requires much more than strong political leadership; it requires statesmanship – and at all levels.

The writer is a former RBI governor

It's Time India Stopped Hiding Its Fab Four

Astronaut-elects are ambassadors whose experiences can inspire young minds. But the Indian approach is to bar them from engaging with public. It makes no sense. US & others all celebrate their astronauts

Chethan.Kumar@timesofindia.com

'Of all animals, perhaps, man is the only one who can think and perceive a phenomenon beyond the range of his senses…' The opening line of a lecture from 1972 by Satish Dhawan, considered the architect of India's space programme, is well captured in what astronauts do – show us a glimpse of the world beyond our immediate understanding.

The allure of becoming an astronaut has captivated minds for generations worldwide. Even in countries without space programmes, the idea of exploring the vast unknown holds unparalleled fascination. In India, too, this dream was ever-present, even before our human spaceflight ambitions took flight.

Rakesh Sharma's visit to space on a Russian mission was celebrated nationwide in 1984 – and for years thereafter. Much before that, even in the absence of live television, internet and social media, Yuri Gagarin, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, featured in animated Indian discussions.

Cut to today and stories of global astronauts – **the journey, stay and return of Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, for instance** – and even those taking part in commercial suborbital missions (being part of which doesn't necessarily qualify one to be an astronaut) are read about and viewed with interest. The way Nasa and ESA advertise their astronauts, even potential ones picked for future missions, is something worth emulating.

Addressing global challenges and driving innovation are inextricably linked to scientific literacy. Astronauts have an incomparable ability to serve as ambassadors. They have the power to bridge the gap between complex scientific concepts and public understanding, making the seemingly incomprehensible accessible and inspiring a love for knowledge.

But over six years after Modi announced the human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, the four astronaut-elects – Group Captains Prashanth Nair, Shubhanshu Shukla, Ajit Krishnan and Angad Prathap – have been hidden behind high walls, out of the public eye, except on the day (Feb 27, 2024) when they were bestowed "astronaut wings".

The reasons establishments handling the Fab-4 – all IAF test pilots from the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment – proffered for the bar on making their profiles public ranged from 'national security' and 'personal safety' to allowing them to 'focus' on the job at hand.

In fact, PM had said: "I request citizens and media to cooperate. The astronauts have continuously done penance for the past four years. They have done this without making themselves visible. They still have a long way to go, there are many challenges."

Chethan Kumar

Billboard of Nasa Artemis astronauts who'll set off to Moon around 2026

Many working in the establishments concede in private that none of the reasons cited is fully valid. The four men were shipped off for training – they spent about a year in Russia – where their identities weren't hidden 'as such'. Now, two of them, Shukla and Nair are in US. Shukla is slated to be part of the upcoming Axiom-4 mission (Ax-4) to International Space Station. This will make Shukla the first Indian astronaut to go to space in 40 years.

On a visit to Axiom Space last month, your correspondent learnt that the other three astronauts who're part of Ax-4 are telling their stories to their people. And their countries, Hungary and Poland, are celebrating stories of their astronauts. But not India.

In fact, three of the four home countries of the Ax-4 team – India, Poland, Hungary – haven't sent astronauts in about four decades. Mission commander Peggy Whitson (US), a decorated Nasa astronaut, now with Axiom, is the only experienced space traveller.

The Polish and Hungarian astronauts are free to share their experiences. The Indian astronauts maintain radio silence. The only exception was a press conference in which Shukla participated. Nair wasn't part of it. The other two preparing in India, Krishnan and Prathap, are behind even higher walls.

These men are professionals. Only the best of IAF pilots go on to become test pilots, in itself testimony to their ability to get the job done without fear of 'distractions'. It is time India takes their stories and journeys to the public. Why wait for them to go to space and return?

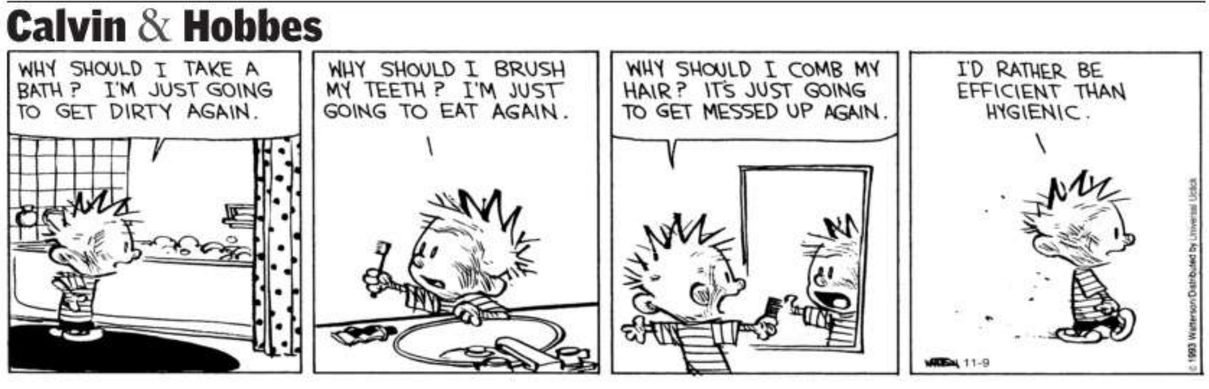
In fact, it wouldn't at all matter if these four don't make it to space as part of India's first human spaceflight mission to make way for another batch. Sending anything to space, let alone humans, is extremely complex, even perilous, and delays in such missions only indicate caution not failure.

But India should bring them out. Now. Their experiences will resonate deeply, particularly with young minds and students. Not only are they ambassadors of science but they can also become spokespersons for Gaganyaan – a mission that has piqued global interest.

Training to be an astronaut in itself makes them powerful role models, demonstrating the rewards of perseverance, hard work, and dedication to learning. Their accomplishments will also underscore the importance of pursuing STEM, encouraging young people to pursue careers that drive scientific progress.

By leveraging the unique influence astronauts can have, India can kindle a passion for science that transcends classrooms and laboratories, capturing the hearts and minds of people.

Calvin & Hobbes


WHY SHOULD I TAKE A BATH? I'M JUST GOING TO GET DIRTY AGAIN.
WHY SHOULD I BRUSH MY TEETH? I'M JUST GOING TO EAT AGAIN.
WHY SHOULD I COMB MY HAIR? IT'S JUST GOING TO GET MESSED UP AGAIN.
I'D RATHER BE EFFICIENT THAN HYGIENIC.
11-9

Sacred*space*

Who is more humble? The scientist who looks at the universe with an open mind and accepts whatever the universe has to teach us, or somebody who says everything in this book must be considered the literal truth...

Carl Sagan

How We Can Reinvent Ourselves Every Day

Jug Suraiya

The saying that you can never step into the same river twice, as the flowing river is constantly changing, is doubly true. It's not just the river that has changed; the you who steps into it the second time is different from the you of the time before.

The adult human is made up of over 37 trillion cells. That's more than the number of seconds in a million years. Each day some 330 billion cells, or about one per cent, are replaced by your body in a process of continual renewal.

Your body cells, like all matter, are made up of atoms of which you have seven octillion, that is 7 followed by 27 zeros. We change 98% of all our atoms every year.

In his recently published book, *What's Gotten Into You: The Story of Your Body's Atoms, from The Big Bang Theory Through Last Night's Dinner*, American science historian Dan Levitt, writes: "When I look at people I think 'Wow, you are such incredible organisms', and our atoms share the same deep history that goes back to the Big Bang…even the simplest cell is incredibly complex and worthy of great respect."

Levitt traces the origins of the atoms our bodies are composed of to the incredibly violent birth of the universe when Cosmos erupted from the womb of Chaos. Like Carl Sagan earlier, Levitt concludes that we, literally, are made of star stuff. And when we die, our atoms live on. "They revolve through life, soil, oceans and sky, in a chemical merry-go-round."

In this cosmic carnival ride, the atoms which currently compose the fluidity that is our body, came not only from the farthest reaches of space but also walked the earth before, through the long march of evolutionary history.

Atoms can change into sub-atomic particles but cannot be destroyed.

This means that some atoms, which once were part of people long departed, are in us, and from us will be passed on to others, like batons in a relay race.

It might give pause to, say, a white supremacist to confront the inconvenient possibility that the atoms of perhaps Martin Luther King Jr are now part of his being. Or for an adherent of Hindutva to think that the atomic architecture which once constituted an organism who called himself Aurangzeb, might now be a part of him.

The unitary identity that we call our 'self' is a fiction, an ongoing narrative which we invent at a subconscious level, as a necessary device to get on with the practical details of day-to-day living, going through the rites of passage, from childhood, to adolescence, to adulthood, receiving an education, earning a livelihood, raising a family.

Sartrean existentialism posits the self as a nullity, an unbound nothingness which comes into existence following the choices it makes. There are no immutable heroes or cowards, saints or sinners. There are only choices between acts of courage or of cowardice, between compassion and cruelty.

This ever-changing, ever-changeable you, composed of the integral calculus of the choices you make, is the Unself beyond the Self.

The you that is you today has the freedom to choose to be a different you tomorrow.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Motorcycle Diary From Fallen Maoist Den

TOI's **Soumitra Bose** rides into Abujhmarh, once the heartland of Naxalism but now a fading rebel outpost, transformed by security operations and govt outreach

The motorcycle coughed as it hit a deep rut in the forest trail, sending up a cloud of red dust. Towering sagwan trees loomed overhead, guarding a land long off-limits to outsiders.

Rajendra Badge, a 27-year-old revenue official in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, gripped the handlebars firmly. Behind him, this correspondent tightened his hold as the bike skidded over loose gravel.

Abujhmarh — once the heartland of India's longest-running Maoist insurgency — was opening up. They were among the first outsiders to witness its transformation.

The very thought of this journey would have been inconceivable a few years ago. Yet here they were — two men on a bike, weaving through narrow trails where People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) once dictated life and death.

It was impossible not to think of "The Motorcycle Diaries". Che Guevara's journey on an old Norton 500 ignited revolution. Riding through Abujhmarh, a govt official and a journalist found themselves at the opposite end of a revolution's life cycle — not its birth, but its slow, inevitable decline.

"How does it feel?" Badge asked. He didn't wait for a reply and carried on: "I took up this job in 2012. Back then, we wouldn't even consider setting foot here. The Maoists controlled everything — courts, schools, healthcare, even food distribution. Govt was just a rumour," he said.

Along the trail, an abandoned Maoist checkpoint stood in ruins, its rusted hammer-and-sickle insignia hanging upside down — defeated not by direct combat alone, but by a slow erosion of its foundation.

Still, as the bike rattled through the rugged terrain, there was an unmistakable unease. "Not long ago, stopping here would've been suicide," Badge muttered, glancing over his shoulder as if expecting shadows to emerge from the foliage.

For five decades, Abujhmarh — 4,000sqkm of unyielding forest spanning Maharashtra's Gadchiroli and Bastar in Chhattisgarh — was an autonomous Maoist stronghold, where security forces dared not enter.

A new police post on former Maoist turf; rebel insignia hang upside down

That has changed. PLGA's shadow administration Janatana Sarkar is gone. The parallel govt has fallen. "Over 500sqkm of Abujhmarh on the Maharashtra side has been reclaimed," a senior police officer said.

The fall of Abujhmarh was gradual. Security forces delivered decisive blows — killing 34 Maoists in Kasnasoor (2018), eliminating leader Milind Teltumbde and 26 cadres in Mardintola (2021), and securing the final surrender of PLGA commander Giridhar in 2024.

"Maharashtra's anti-Naxal force has been relentless," said Gadchiroli SP Neelotpal. Battle-hardened commando force C-60 built an intelligence network, tracked Maoist movements, and set up fortified police stations deep in the jungle.

"Only 45 Maoists are left in the forests on the left bank of Indravati (river). The rest have been neutralised or surrendered," Neelotpal said.

At the same time, govt targeted the rebels' support system — villagers. Two initiatives dismantled Maoist influence. Dadalora Khidki, a single-window service that helps villagers access welfare schemes. "This brought villagers closer to police for the first time," Neelotpal said.

Gaobandi was even more transformative. Entire villages took oaths to reject Maoists — refusing to attend their meetings, denying them shelter, and barring their entry. In return, they received govt benefits. At least 22 villages in Bhamragarh taluka took the pledge.

At Hetalwada, a tribal village, a group gathered near a newly installed mobile tower — a luxury in these parts. A few children peered at the approaching strangers. A woman stepped forward, holding a bank passbook and a Ladki Bahin card — proof of govt aid.

"For years, we were told govt would never come. Now we have Aadhaar cards, ration books... even mobile phones," said Rekha Madavi.

One can't help but think of Guevara's Foco theory — the idea that a small group of armed revolutionaries could ignite mass uprisings. But here, the opposite had happened. The villagers, once the movement's backbone, had abandoned it.

"We have Aadhaar cards, caste certificates, ration cards," said Watte Dolu Pungati, a tribal from Hetalwada, where villagers had recently taken the oath under Gaobandi. "We even have mobile phones after a 4G tower was set up. What we need next is an irrigation scheme."

His sentiments resonated with others. "We have bank accounts and documents. We need roads and hospitals," said Kashinath Masu Madavi from Marda Malenga village.

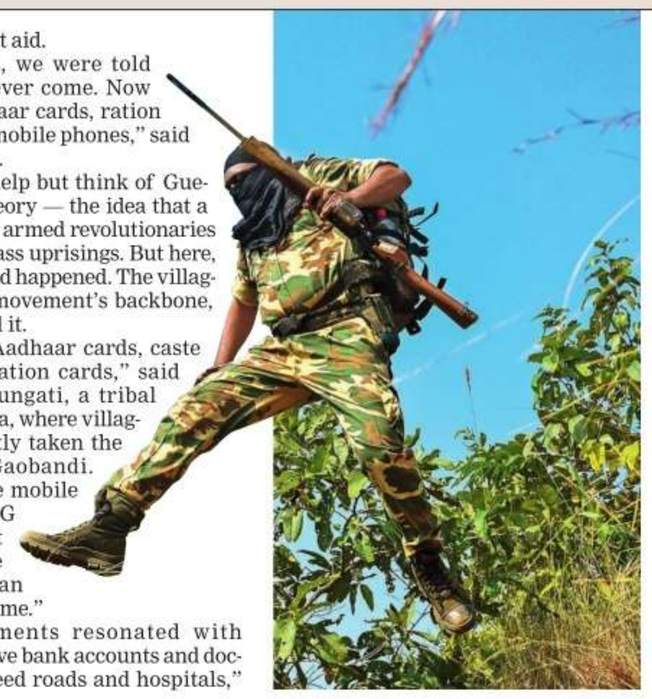
Abujhmarh is now seeing a wave of new projects. A 27km road is being built from Laheri to Kuwakori, linking Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. And a bridge over Indravati, a structure that would permanently break the isolation that had once allowed the Maoists to thrive.

"This bridge will go a long way in ending their dominance," said Aheri additional collector Vijay Bhakare.

As the journey wound deeper, Badge stopped and pointed toward a hill. "Abujhmarh" in native Gondi tongue means "unfathomable highland", broken down into "abujh" (mysterious) and "marh" (hill) — a name that reflects the region's mystique.

"You know, I used to believe these forests were untouchable," he said. "That they belonged only to the guerrillas. But here we're. The fear is fading."

History has turned a page. In Guevara's journey, a revolution was born. Here in Abujhmarh, they were witnessing the last traces of one disappearing into the red dust.



RECLAIMING ABUJHMARH

- 41 | Villages banned Maoist entry
- 0 | Villages under Maoist parallel govt 'Janatana Sarkar'
- 48 | Active PLGA cadre
- 52 | Maoists killed in past 5 years
- 4 | Commandos killed since 2020
- 29 | Civilians killed in past 5 years
- 57 | Maoists arrested in 2 years
- 704 | Maoists surrendered
- 1,508 | Weapons seized

All 2025 figures from Gadchiroli side

Bastar breaks free, rises from warzone to hope's heartland

Rashmi.Drolia@timesofindia.com

Raipur: Schools that stood abandoned now resonate with the chatter of children. Outside, a dirt road hums with the steady movement of trucks. Their cargo: not arms, but bricks, cement, and sacks of rice.

For decades, Abujhmarh in Chhattisgarh's Bastar belonged to the Maoist gun. Villages were caught in an unending war. Hope was a fragile thing. But something has shifted.

Alongside sustained security operations that have reclaimed vast tracts of land from rebels, the trifecta of bijli, sadak, and pani has emerged as a game-changer in the region since 2024.

Streetlights pierce the darkness that once cloaked Maoist strongholds. Bulldozers plough the red earth, making way for roads. And for the first time in generations, taps in villages like Chhutwahi gush with clean water, sparing women the long, dangerous walk to distant streams.

The numbers from 2024 onwards point to the shift: 234 gunfights with security forces, 282 Maoists killed, nearly 950 surrendered, and 1,105 arrested. More than 50 schools reopened, electricity reached dozens of villages. Roads — long unfinished, long feared — now connect forgotten corners of Bastar to the rest of Chhattisgarh.

"Maoists have suffered massive losses, but they can still draw blood in pockets where they remain," an internal security veteran said.

Security forces have executed a strategy as unrelenting as the insurgency they seek to dismantle: push into Maoist strongholds, drive the rebels out, and hold the ground at any cost.

Operations were carried out across Bastar, assisted by drones, satellite tracking, and an intricate web of human intelligence. The Maoists' famed familiarity with the land was no longer an advantage. They were outwitted, outgunned, and outlasted.

Every surrender brought new information. Every captured courier chipped away at Maoist supply lines. The insurgency, starved of both manpower and rations, began to crumble from within.

"For the first time in years, Maoists are running out of food," Bastar IG P Sundarraj said. "Hundreds of surrendered cadres tell us the same thing — life in the insurgent ranks is unbearable."

Police camps dot Bastar's once-forbidden terrain. They are lifelines. Around them, markets spring up, buses begin to run, ration shops open their doors, and villages — long cut off — begin to breathe again.

"Security camps are bringing development that people want. We are hopeful of reaching the desired goal," IG Sundarraj said. Union home minister Amit Shah has clearly set the goal — complete elimination of Maoist insurgency by March 2026.

It is not just the gun that is breaking the insurgency in Bastar. Govt has extended a hand to those willing to lay down their arms. A new surrender policy offers a stipend of Rs 10,000 a month, vocational training, education, and even housing. The impact is visible. High-ranking commanders are defecting — their disillusionment outweighing their fear

WINNING THE WAR SINCE 2024

282 Maoists killed, 950 surrendered, 1,105 arrested

Maoist numbers in Bastar down to around 400 hardcore fighters

SECURITY STRATEGY

- **Clear Will To Act** | A decisive resolve to take down Maoists
- **Strategic Ground Holding** | Securing and maintaining control of gained territory, despite losses
- **Hammer-And-Anvil Tactics** | Maoists left with shrinking areas of control
- **Tech-Driven Tracking** | Use of drones and real-time intelligence for precise tracking
- **Human Intelligence** | Information from former/surrendered cadres aid operations
- **Inter-State Coordination** | Joint operations with Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra, and MP police push insurgents back
- **Attractive Surrender Policy** | Surrendered cadres receive housing, monthly stipends, skill development

BIJLI, SADAK, PANI — Electricity reaches remote villages | 50 schools reopened, including 29 in Bijapur | Critical road projects, stalled for decades, now operational

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT PEB-CIVIL CONTRACTORS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TRAINING CENTRE CUM COMMON FACILITY FOR AGRI/FOOD PROCESSING UNITS IN THE KALAYANA KARNATAKA DISTRICTS

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Detailed document for the EoI is available on the following link:
https://nabcons.com/uploads/tender/NABCONS1742204264Expression of Interest.pdf
The signed, sealed and scanned documents for empanelment may please be mailed to **hyderabad@nabcons.in** on or before **5.00 PM on 25th March 2025.**

For Further Information please contact

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Sr. Project Consultant	Sr. Associate Consultant	Vice President, ZO Hyderabad
Mobile No: 9603277141	Mobile No: 9030736867	Mobile No: 8450900365

Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited
(A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise), 4, Meera Marg, Udaipur – 313001, Phone: (0294)2427177 2428763-67, Fax (0294)2428768, 2428789 E-Mail :- contractco.rsmml@rajasthan.gov.in

Detailed Notice Inviting Tender Date - 13/03/2025

NIT No. & Date	Description of Work
e-Tender no. Cont- 27/2024-25 dated 12.03.2025 UBN No. MML2425WLOB00227	Hiring of Heavy Earth Moving Equipment for Removal of Overburden, Raising, Loading and Transportation etc. of Saleable Lignite and allied work at Sonari Lignite Mines, District Barmer (Rajasthan). Contract value Rs. 48200.00 Lac, EMD in Rs. 964 Lac, Tender Fees Rs. 4720/-

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our website **www.rsmm.com or www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or Sr. Manager (Contract) on above address.
Raj.Samwad/C/24/13268 **Dy. General Manager (P&A)**

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Notice No. 25-28_AMC of ETMachines Date- 12.03.2025

Description of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
AMC of 02 Nos. End Tapering Machines at RSK/STLI.	₹ 9,31,41,843.00 (Rs.NineCrore Thirty One LakhForty One Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Three Only)	₹ 6,15,800.00/- (Rs. Six lakh Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Only

Completion period: 36 Months from the date of commencement of work. **1.** E-Tender will be closed at **15.00** Hrs. on **01.04.2025.** E-Tender Notice is also available on Indian Railway E-Tender website **www.ireps.gov.in. 2.** For detailed information please visit Indian Railway E-Tender website **www.ireps.gov.in. 3. Eligibility criteria:-** The experience of similar work etc as define and shown in the condition of tender for minimum eligibility criteria and other condition shall be made available in tender documents and on Indian Railway E-Tendering website **www.ireps.gov.in. 4.** Tenderers using the tender document downloaded from the website should watch the website for the corrigendum/addendum to the NIT/E-Tender document, if any, as there will be not be any separate communication for the same. **Note:-** Tenderer shall submit documentary proof in regard to fulfilling all the above eligibility criteria along with their offer which has been completed by them before the publication date of NIT. The offers of tenderer who do not meet the eligibility criteria as mentioned above shall not be considered. **479/25 FA**

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Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
World Trade Centre, Tower - F,
Nauroji Nagar New Delhi-110029
No.: A-25/14/1(1)/2024-Legal Dated: 13 March, 2025

NOTICE
Engagement of Advocates on Record

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), a statutory body, intends to engage Advocates on Record (AoR) for representing TRAI before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, rendering legal advice, drafting, and vetting of petitions, appeals, replies etc. The interested Advocates who are desirous to be considered for engagement and have adequate experience in dealing with legal matters pertaining to the telecommunication/ broadcasting and cable services may submit their application, latest by 03.04.2025. The details of the terms and conditions of engagement of counsel contained in this notice is also published on the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP).
For any further information/query, Shri Akhil Saxena, Advisor (Legal) may be contacted over telephone No. (011) 26769710. CBC 06202/12/0097/2425

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MAINTENANCE DIVISION (GANGA)
UTTRAKHAND JAL SANSTHAN JAGJEETPUR HARIDWAR - 249408
Email - eeganga-ujs-uk@nic.in

Letter no.-2076/ E-Tender/2024-25 Date-17.03.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division (Ganga), Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Jagjeetpur Haridwar on behalf of "Chief General Manager Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan" online tender are invited on the website **http://www.uktender.gov.in** from experienced and eligible bidders having adequate technical and financial capability and experience for Sewerage Treatment plant as specified in tender documents for following work at Haridwar in Two bid system as per description & schedule given below for following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount of Bid Security	Cost of E-Tender (With GST)	Period
1.	Operation & Maintenance Of 18 MLD Sarai, Sewage Treatment Plant (S.B.R. Technology) Jwalapur, Haridwar	Rs. 13,12,000.00	Rs. 5000 + 18% G.S.T.	05 Year

Date of Calling Tender	17.03.2025
Date of Online Publication	18.03.2025 at 12:00 pm
Documents Download Start Date	18.03.2025 at 12:00 pm
Documents Download End Date	11.04.2025 at 03:00 pm
Pre-Bid Meeting **(Place- Office of Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division (Ganga) Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Jagjeetpur Haridwar)**	27.03.2025 at 11:00 pm
Online Bid Submission Start Date	18.03.2025 at 12:00 pm
Online Bid Submission End Date	11.04.2025 at 03:00 pm
Last Date of Hard Copy Submission of Required Documents as per Tender document **(Place- Office of Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division (Ganga)Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Jagjeetpur Haridwar)**	11.04.2025 at 03:00 pm
Date of Technical Bid Opening	11.04.2025 at 04:00 pm

Note: Rest Terms & Conditions will be applicable as per Tender Documents upload on E-tender Portal http://www.uktender.gov.in

(Harish Kumar Bansal)
Executive Engineer

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW SLOWLY YOU GO AS LONG AS YOU DO NOT STOP — CONFUCIUS

AILING ELTON JOHN, 77, SAYS UNABLE TO SIGN AUTOGRAPHS, MAKES DO WITH HIS INITIAL, 'E AND A KISS' ON NEW ALBUM

GRIMES SAYS BEGGED ELON MUSK TO KEEP THEIR KIDS OFFLINE: 'YOUNG PEOPLE BEING DESTROYED BY NET'

Trump: Talks with Putin today on ending conflict in Ukraine

Territorial Concessions By Kyiv, Control Of N-Plant Likely On Table

Washington: President Donald Trump said he would speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin Tuesday about ending the Ukraine war, with territorial concessions by Kyiv and control of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant expected to feature prominently in talks. "We want to see if we can bring that war to an end," Trump told reporters on Air Force One during a flight back to the Washington area from Florida. "Maybe we can, maybe we can't, but I think we have a very good chance. I'll be speaking to President Putin on Tuesday. A lot of work's been done over the weekend."

Trump is trying to win Putin's support for a 30-day ceasefire proposal that Ukraine accepted last week, as both sides continued trading heavy aerial strikes through the weekend and Russia moved closer to ejecting Ukrainian forces from their months-old foothold in the western Russian region of Kursk.

Asked about what concessions were being considered in talks, Trump said: "We'll be talking about land. We'll be talking about power plants... We're already talking about that, dividing up certain assets." Trump gave no details but was most likely referring to the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia facility in Ukraine, Europe's largest nuclear plant.

AP

Ukrainian soldiers fire 120mm mortar towards Russians in Donetsk region

Trump warns Iran it will face 'consequences' of further attacks from Yemen's Houthi rebels

US President Trump on Monday explicitly linked the actions of Yemen's Houthi rebels to the group's main benefactor, Iran, warning Tehran would "suffer the consequences" for further attacks by the group. The comments by Trump on his Truth Social website escalate his administration's new campaign of air strikes targeting the rebels, which killed at least 53 people this weekend alone and appear poised to continue. Houthi supporters themselves rallied in several cities Monday after the strikes, vowing revenge against America and Israel over blocking aid to the Gaza Strip. Describing the Houthis as "sinister mobsters and thugs," Trump warned any attack by the group would be met with "great force, and there is no guarantee that that force will stop there." "Iran has played 'the innocent victim' of rogue terrorists from which they've lost control, but they haven't lost control," Trump alleged in his post. "They're dictating every move, giving them the weapons, supplying them with money and highly sophisticated Military equipment, and even, so-called, 'Intelligence.'" It's unclear what sparked Trump's post. AP

Kremlin confirms talks

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed Putin would speak with Trump but declined to comment on Trump's remarks about land and power plants. The Kremlin said Friday Putin had sent Trump a message about his ceasefire plan via US envoy Steve Witkoff, who held talks in Moscow, expressing "cautious optimism" that a deal could be reached to end the conflict. In separate TV appearances, Witkoff, secretary of state Marco Rubio, and Trump's NSA, Mike Waltz, said that there were still challenges to be worked out before Russia agrees to a ceasefire.

Russia seeks 'ironclad guarantees'

Ukraine's President Zelensky has said he saw a good chance to end the war after Kyiv accepted the US proposal for a 30-day ceasefire. However, Zelensky has consistently said the sovereignty of his country is not negotiable and Russia must surrender the territory it has seized. Russia seized the Crimea peninsula in 2014 and now controls most of four eastern Ukrainian regions since its invasion in 2022. Zelensky has not responded publicly yet to Waltz's remarks.

Russia will seek "ironclad" guarantees in any peace deal that Nato nations exclude Kyiv from membership and that Ukraine will remain neutral, Russian deputy foreign minister Alexander Grushko told Russian media outlet Izvestia in remarks published on Monday that made no reference to ceasefire proposal. "We will demand ironclad security guarantees become part of agreement," Izvestia cited Grushko as saying. Britain and France have said they can send a peacekeeping force to monitor any truce in Ukraine. REUTERS

DOGE cuts reach key N-scientists, bomb engineers and safety experts

They handled the secure transport of nuclear materials — dangerous, demanding work that requires rigorous training. Four of them took the Trump administration's offer of a buyout and left the National Nuclear Security Administration.

A half-dozen staff members left a unit in the agency that builds reactors for nuclear submarines. And a biochemist and engineer who had recently joined the agency as head of the team that enforces safety and environmental standards at a Texas plant that assembles nuclear warheads was fired. In the past six weeks, the agency, just one relatively small outpost in a federal workforce that President Trump and his top adviser Elon Musk aim to drastically pare down, has lost a huge cadre of scientists, engineers, safety experts, project officers, accountants and lawyers — all in the midst of its most ambitious endeavours in a generation.

The nuclear agency, chronically understaffed but critically important, is the busiest it has been since the Cold War. It not only manages the nation's 3,748 nuclear bombs and warheads, it is modernising that arsenal — a $20-billion-a-year effort that will arm a new fleet of nuclear submarines, bomber jets and land-based missiles.

Since the last year of the first Trump administration, the agency has been desperately trying to build up its staff to handle the added workload. Though it was still hundreds of employees short of what it had said it needed, it had edged up to about 2,000 workers by January.

Now, with the Trump administration's buyouts and firings, the agency's trajectory has gone from one of painstaking growth to retraction.

More than 130 employees took govt's offer of a payout to resign. Those departures, together with those of about 27 workers who were caught up in a mass firing and not rehired, wiped out most of the recent staffing gains.

Engaged in top-secret work, the agency typically stays below the public radar. But it has emerged as a headline example of how the Trump administration's cuts, touted as a cure-all for supposed govt extravagance and corruption, are threatening the muscle and bone of operations that involve national security or other missions at the very heart of the federal govt's responsibilities. NYT

CAMPUS RUMPUS IN TRUMP ERA

Brown Univ prof deported; she had pix sympathetic of Hezbollah on phone: US

A kidney transplant specialist and professor at Brown University's medical school has been deported from the US, even though she had a valid visa and a court order temporarily blocking her expulsion, according to her lawyer and court papers.

Dr Rasha Alawieh, 34, is a Lebanese citizen who had travelled to her home country last month. She was detained Thursday when she returned to the US, according to a complaint filed by her cousin Yara Chehab. The US department of justice said Monday Alawieh was deported after discovering "sympathetic photos and videos" of a former longtime leader of Hezbollah and militants in her cell phone's deleted items folder. Alawieh had also told agents that while in Lebanon she attended the funeral last month of Hezbollah slain chief Hassan Nasrallah, whom she supported from a "religious perspective" as a Shia Muslim.

The DOJ provided those details as it sought to assure a federal judge in Boston that US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) did not willfully disobey an order he issued on Friday that should have halted Alawieh's immediate removal. Judge Leo T Sorokin had ordered govt Friday evening to provide the court with 48 hours' notice before deporting Alawieh. But she was put on a flight to Paris, presumably on her way to Lebanon. In a second order filed Sunday morning, the judge said there was reason to believe US Customs and Border Protection had willfully disobeyed his previous order to give the court notice before expelling the doctor.

Reuters

Brown Univ campus in Providence

"It's a purely religious thing," she said about the funeral, according to a transcript of the interview. "He's a very big figure in our community. For me it's not political." Western govts, including the US, designate Hezbollah a terrorist group.

Based on the statements and discovery of photos on her phone of Nasrallah and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, supreme leader of Iran, DOJ said CBP concluded "her true intentions in the US could not be determined." Thomas Brown, a lawyer representing Alawieh and her employer, Brown Medicine, said that while the doctor was in Lebanon, the US Consulate issued her an H-1B visa, which allows highly skilled foreign citizens to live and work in the US. AGENCIES

In bid to bolster diversity, Harvard to make tuition free for more students

Harvard announced Monday it plans to offer free tuition for students whose families earn $200,000 and below, making it the latest elite school to expand financial aid after the Supreme Court banned the use of racial preferences in college admissions.

The plan with the new income cap will take effect starting this fall. Previously at Harvard, only families with incomes under $85,000 were offered free tuition. The median household income in the US is about $80,000. In addition to boosting diversity, the move could serve to improve the school's image as higher education is under assault by the Trump administration and growing unpopular with Americans who have lost confidence in education.

The University of Pennsylvania announced last November that it would offer free tuition for students from families making under $200,000. Other universities have also increased their financial aid limits in the past year. The annual cost of attending Harvard, including tuition and housing, was almost $83,000 this school year.

In addition to offering free tuition to students with family incomes up to $200,000, Harvard said for those from families making under $100,000, it will cover tuition, fees, food, housing, travel costs between campus and home, event fees and activities, and health insurance, if needed. NYT

Biden's pardons 'void' due to autopen use: Trump

President Donald Trump wrote on social media Sunday night he no longer considered valid the pardons his predecessor granted to members of the bipartisan House committee that investigated the Jan 6, 2021, attacks on the Capitol, and a range of other people whom Trump sees as his political enemies, because they were signed using an autopen device.

There is no power in the Constitution or case law to undo a pardon, and there is no exception to pardons signed by autopen. But Trump's assertion, which embraced a baseless conspiracy theory about former President Joe Biden, was a new escalation of his antidemocratic rhetoric. Implicit in his post was Trump's belief that the nation's laws should be whatever he decrees them to be.

"The 'Pardons' that Sleepy Joe Biden gave to the Unselect committee of Political Thugs, and many others, are hereby declared VOID, VACANT, AND OF NO FURTHER FORCE OR EFFECT, because of the fact that they were done by Autopen," Trump wrote in a post on Sunday night. "In other words, Joe Biden did not sign them but, more importantly, he did not know anything about them!"

The use of autopen is an ordinarily uncontroversial aspect of governance; it was first used to sign a bill into law at the direction of a president in 2011, when former President Barack Obama was travelling in Europe and wanted to sign a piece of legislation that Congress passed extending the Patriot Act another four years.

After Trump posted about the autopen and the pardons Sunday night, a reporter in the travelling press pool on Air Force One asked him to elaborate, and he seemed to briefly back away from the extraordinary idea he had just posted.

Would other things Biden signed as president using an autopen also be considered null and void, he was asked. "It's not my decision," Trump said. "That would be up to a court. But I would say that they're null and void, because I'm sure that Biden didn't have any idea that it was taking place."

In the final hours of Biden's presidency, he granted a wave of pre-emptive pardons to relatives; all members of the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6 attack on Congress, including Liz Cheney, a former congresswoman and the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney; and some of Trump's most high-profile foes, including Gen Mark A Milley and Dr Anthony S Fauci.

A pinned post on Trump's Truth Social profile is a meme depicting a framed picture of an autopen hanging on a wall in the place where a portrait of the 46th president ought to be. Elon Musk reposted the meme. NYT

Fearing deportation, a Cornell university grad student files a pre-emptive lawsuit

An international graduate student at Cornell University filed a lawsuit Saturday to block enforcement of two White House executive orders that, he fears, could result in his deportation from the US for pro-Palestinian activism.

The suit was filed by Momodou Taal, a doctoral student in Africana studies at Cornell and an outspoken critic of US policy in West Asia. It cites a threat made by Trump after the arrest and detention of Mahmoud Khalil, a graduate of Columbia University and legal US resident whom the administration is trying to deport. "This is the first arrest of many to come," Trump wrote on Truth Social after federal agents picked up Khalil at his New York City apartment March 8. Trump called pro-Palestinian activists like Khalil "terrorist sympathizers" and said "we will find, apprehend and deport" them, "never to return again." Another Columbia student, Leqaa Kordia, was detained for overstaying her visa.

The lawsuit asks for national injunctions to block two executive orders issued in Feb. Both are aimed at the removal or arrest of pro-Palestinian activists or anyone else whom the administration deems guilty of anti-semitic speech. A hearing could be held Monday, according to Taal's lawyer, Eric Lee. Two other plaintiffs — a professor and another student at Cornell both American citizens — joined Taal in the suit, arguing that the orders chill their rights to free speech.

Taal, 31, is a citizen of both Gambia and the UK. He has become known on the Cornell campus in Ithaca, New York, as a leading pro-Palestinian voice. In the lawsuit, Taal argues his activism has made him a target of the Trump administration's plans, based partly on a list that was circulated by a pro-Zionist group, Betar. NYT

Judge questions Venezuelans' deportation

Washington: A US judge Monday ordered Trump administration officials to explain whether the administration violated his order when they deported hundreds of Venezuelan gang members over the weekend and potentially set up a constitutional clash between the president and the federal judiciary.

The White House asserted on Sunday that federal courts "have no jurisdiction" over President Trump's authority to expel foreign enemies under an 18th-century law historically used only in wartime. Press secretary Karoline Leavitt said, "A single judge in a single city cannot direct the movements of an aircraft ... full of foreign alien terrorists who were physically expelled from US soil,"

AFP

A picture released on Sunday by El Salvador shows the arrival of Tren de Aragua members at a prison in the city of Tecoluca

Judge James Boasberg in Washington set a hearing for 5pm ET (2.30am IST Tuesday) and instructed the govt to provide details on whether the flights that transported the Venezuelans to El Salvador took off after his order or were in the air at the time. The hearing was scheduled in response to an overnight filing by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other advocates seeking clarity on the flights. At an emergency hearing on Saturday requested by the ACLU, a civil rights group, Boasberg issued a two-week temporary block on Trump's use of the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to deport 238 alleged members of Tren de Aragua, a Venezuelan gang. The judge said in court that any flights already en route should return to the US. His written order following the hearing appeared in the court's online docket, the justice department said in a court filing.

On Sunday, El Salvador's President, Nayib Bukele, posted footage on X. "Oopsie ... too late," hele wrote above a news story about the judge's order. REUTERS

'Visa holders must've contingency plans'

▶Continued from P1

The US department of state has updated eligibility requirements for interview waiver appointments (referred to as dropbox appointments). Earlier, applicants could qualify for interview waiver if they had been issued a non-immigrant visa in any category (except B visitor visas) and were applying within 48 months of expiration. Under revised rules, dropbox is available only to applicants renewing a visa in the same non-immigrant category that has expired within past 12 months. Thus, if you are an international student with an F-1 visa and now need an H-1B you must wait for an interview slot. If you have an H-1B and need an extension, but your earlier visa was issued more than 12 months ago, you must also wait for an interview slot, Upadhyay said.

Snehal Batra, managing attorney at NPZ Law Group, said, "Delays due to visa appointment availability is only part of the concern. We know of individuals stuck in administrative processing for no apparent reason other than additional scrutiny and security clearances. This should not have happened if the individual had been previously approved for a visa multiple times. I think we can expect to see 'extreme vetting' similar to the tenure of the earlier Trump administration."

If US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has approved an H-1B, the consular officer has the right to refuse the visa and send the application back to USCIS for re-adjudication. Upadhyay added, "In a situation like this, employees outside the country would be stuck for several monthsbefore they can return to the US." Rajiv S Khanna, managing attorney at Immigration.com, said, "If travel is unavoidable, visa applicants and their employers should also try to have contingency plans in case of delayed stamping such as continuing work from their home country."

Unable to perform X-ray, Indian radiographer suspended in UK

Naomi Canton

London: A radiographer from Kerala has been suspended from practising in Britain for six months after a panel found she was unable to do basic procedures like X-raying a hand or foot that a radiographer "straight out of training would be able to do", and that she was putting the health of UK patients at risk.

Smitha Johny, an Indian national, had declared her first language as English on her application to be registered with the health and care professionals council in 2021.

She had also declared English as her first language on her application to work as a radiographer at a private hospital in Surrey, where she started working in Jan 2023. She had also claimed to have 23 years of experience.

However, the health and care professions tribunal service found she struggled to communicate with patients and colleagues in English, was unable to answer basic questions about radiography process, could not identify basic anatomy, did not follow required guidelines, was unable to set a up an X-ray machine, failed a mandatory life support course, and misrepresented her experience.

When her manager presented himself as a patient for a hip X-ray, she pointed the machine towards his knee, not his hip, which was a radiation breach causing unnecessary exposure, which could cause cancer. At her three-month review in April 2023, she said she was "more like a manager in her previous role" and had worked at the hospital reception desk in India. She also said she had worked with CT scanners and not X-rays. She was then told she would be put on authorised leave that could leave to termination. On April 24, 2023 she resigned.

How an Indian student fled to Canada after ICE came looking for her

Luis Ferre-Sadurni & Hamed Aleaziz

New York: The first knock at the door came on March 7. Three federal immigration agents showed up at a Columbia University apartment searching for Ranjani Srinivasan, a student from India. She and her roommate did not open the door.

Two days earlier, on March 5, Srinivasan had received an email from the US Consulate in Chennai, indicating that her visa had been revoked. The notice did not provide a reason, saying only that "information has come to light" that may make her ineligible for a visa. Confused, she emailed Columbia's office for international students the following day seeking guidance. An official informed her that the revocation would take effect only if she left the country and that she could remain in the US to pursue her studies.

She was not home when the agents showed up again the next night, on March 8. Srinivasan had packed a few belongings, left her cat behind with a friend and jumped on a flight to Canada at LaGuardia Airport.

Her roommate once again refused to open the door to let the agents in, and recorded audio of the interaction. She said the agents had initially identified themselves as "police"; declined to provide their badge numbers, saying they feared they would be doxxed; and stood to the side of the door so they were not visible through the peephole. The roommate, a fellow Columbia student, said the building's doorman, an immigrant, later told her he had let the three agents into the building because he was frightened.

"We were here yesterday," one of the officials said, believing he was talking to Srinivasan because the roommate had not identified herself. "We're here today. We're here tonight. Tomorrow. You're probably scared. If you are, I get it. The reality is, your visa was revoked. You are now amenable to removal proceedings." The official stressed that he and his colleagues were not trying to break the law, that she would have the right to go before an immigration judge and left a phone number for the homeland security department that she could call if she had "a change of heart". "That's the easiest and fastest way to do this, as opposed to you being in your apartment and us knocking on your door every day, which is just silly," he said. "You're a very smart person. It's just not — it's not worth it."

Ranjani Srinivasan

Srinivasan had received an email from the US Consulate in Chennai on March 5 that her visa had been revoked

When the agents returned a third time, this past Thursday, and entered her apartment with a judicial warrant, Srinivasan she was already in Canada.

"The atmosphere seemed so volatile and dangerous," Srinivasan, 37, said Friday. "So I just made a quick decision." Srinivasan, a Fulbright recipient pursuing a doctoral degree in urban planning, was caught in the dragnet of President Trump's crackdown on pro-Palestinian demonstrators through the use of federal immigration powers.

In the week since that first knock, Srinivasan says she has struggled to understand why the state department abruptly revoked her student visa without explanation, leading Columbia to withdraw her enrollment from the university. On Friday, while considering her future in Canada, she received some answers. The department issued a statement that characterised Srinivasan as a terrorist sympathiser and accused her of advocating violence and being "involved in activities supporting Hamas, a terrorist organisation." It did not provide any evidence for its allegations.

Srinivasan's lawyers have vehemently denied those allegations and have accused the Trump administration of revoking her visa for engaging in "protected political speech," saying she was denied "any meaningful form of due process" to challenge the visa revocation.

Homeland security department officials said when Srinivasan renewed her visa last year, she failed to disclose two court summonses related to protests on Columbia's campus.

"I'm fearful that even the most low-level political speech or doing what we all do — like shout into the abyss that is social media — can turn into this dystopian nightmare where somebody is calling you a terrorist sympathiser and making you, literally, fear for your life and safety," Srinivasan said.

Srinivasan's current situation can be traced back to last year, when she was arrested at an entrance to Columbia's campus the same day that pro-Palestinian protesters occupied Hamilton Hall, a university building. She said she had not been a part of the break-in but was returning to her apartment, wading through a churning crowd of protesters and barricades when the police arrested her.

She was detained and received two summonses, one for obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic and another for refusing to disperse. Her case was quickly dismissed and did not result in a criminal record, according to her lawyers and court documents. Srinivasan said she never faced disciplinary action from the university and was in good academic standing.

Srinivasan said she did not disclose the summonses in the visa renewal form because her case had been dismissed and she did not have a conviction. "But maybe that was my mistake. I would have been happy to disclose that, but the way they questioned us was sort of assuming you had a conviction."

Srinivasan said she was not an activist or a member of any group that organised demonstrations on campus. "I'm surprised I'm a person of interest," she said. "I'm kind of a rando, like, absolute rando." NYT

DAILY PLANET

Stranded astronauts thank Musk, Trump for facilitating return

Nasa astronauts **Sunita Williams** and Butch Willmore, who are set to return to Earth after being stranded in space for over nine months, expressed gratitude to US President Donald Trump and SpaceX CEO and Elon Musk. In the video posted by Musk on X, Williams said, "We are coming back before long, so don't make those plans without me. We'll be back before too long." Butch said, "All of us have the utmost respect for Musk and obviously respect and admiration for our President of the United States Donald Trump. We appreciate them, we appreciate all what they do for us, human spaceflight for our nation, and we're thankful for the positions they are in."

AFP

SLICE OF HISTORY: People re-enact a scene of ouster of British forces during the American Revolutionary War at a parade in Boston on Sunday

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

The State Of Cyber Resilience In India

As firms struggle to protect themselves against the fast-changing conditions, the spotlight is on cybersecurity resilience. Zscaler conducted a survey across 12 global markets, engaging 1,700 IT leaders to assess the state of cyber resilience in today's organisations

53% of Indian IT leaders say their cyber resilience strategy is up-to-date to combat modern AI-driven threats

Only **36%** of firms incorporate their cyber resilience strategy into a broader organisational resilience strategy

43% of IT co leaders cite the biggest barriers to stronger cyber resilience as:

- Complex IT and security infrastructure (43%)
- Legacy security and IT systems (34%)
- Lack of skilled resources (29%)

49% believe that cyber resilience budgets fall short of the growing demand

Net direct tax kitty rises 13% to ₹21.3L cr till Mar 16

New Delhi: Net direct tax collection grew 13.1% to over Rs 21.3 lakh crore so far this fiscal aided by higher advance tax mop up, govt data showed on Monday. During the year, govt collected Rs 10.4 lakh crore from four installments of advance tax as against Rs 9.1 lakh crore in the previous fiscal, registering a growth of 14.6%. Advance tax collection under the corporate tax category rose by 12.5% to Rs 7.6 lakh crore, while non-corporates witnessed a growth rate of 20.5% to Rs 2.9 lakh crore during the financial year. AGENCIES

Maruti to hike car prices by up to 4%

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Monday said it will hike vehicle prices by up to 4% from April in order to offset the impact of rising input costs. Tata Motors also said it will increase prices of its commercial vehicles. The hike will vary as per individual models and variants. AGENCIES

Rupee gains for 3 days in row, ends at 86.8/$

Mumbai: The rupee gained against the dollar for the third session on Monday, closing at 86.80, up 20 paise. It touched an intraday high of 86.76, the strongest level since Feb 24. The gains were supported by dollar sales from exporters and foreign banks. TNN

'TaMo, TCS among cos to be hit by tariffs'

Mumbai: Tata Motors, along with IT firms TCS, Infosys, and Hexaware, faces varying degrees of exposure to planned US tariffs, according to a Moody's Ratings report. IT firms could also be hit by immigration policy changes. TNN

24-Year-Old Partnership Ends With Record ₹24K Cr Deal

Bajaj to buy out Allianz's stakes in insurance JVs

German Co To Exit After Dispute Over Decades-Old Deal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In the biggest insurance sector deal in India, Bajaj group will buy out Allianz's 26% stakes in their life and non-life insurance ventures for Rs 13,780 crore and Rs 10,400 crore, respectively. The deal will make both insurers fully Indian-owned.

Under the share purchase agreement, Bajaj Finserv will acquire about 1%, Bajaj Holdings and Investment nearly 20%, and Jamnalal Sons 5%, totaling 26% in each company. After the acquisition, Bajaj Finserv's stake in both firms will rise to just over 75%. Once the joint ventures are terminated, Bajaj and Allianz will pursue independent insurance strategies in India.

The 24-year-old partnership will end after Bajaj acquires at least 6.1% and Allianz is reclassified from promoter to investor. The company has filed the stock exchange disclosure.

Bajaj Allianz Life has an embedded value of nearly Rs 23,000 crore. The life insurance company has a 3% market share in term of premium, while the non-life venture has 7% market share as of Feb.

Sanjiv Bajaj, chairman and MD of Bajaj Finserv, said the two companies, built with Allianz, have a combined premium exceeding Rs 40,000 crore while maintaining strong solvency margins. He added that single ownership would help drive more value for shareholders.

Despite relaxed FDI limits, Allianz did not increase its stake due to a disagreement with Bajaj after a pre-agreed plan to raise the stake within 15 years could not be implemented.

Bajaj Holdings & Investment, formed after Bajaj Auto's demerger in 2007, is an investment firm holding stakes in Bajaj Auto, Bajaj Finserv, and Maharashtra Scooters, earning through dividends, interest, and profits. Part of the Bajaj Group, founded by Jamnalal Bajaj in 1926, it operates separately from Jamnalal Sons.

'MORE VALUE FOR SHAREHOLDERS'

- After the acquisition, Bajaj Finserv's stake in both firms will rise to just over 75%
- Bajaj Finserv chairman and MD **Sanjiv Bajaj** said that single ownership will help drive more value for shareholders
- Allianz will pursue independent insurance strategy in India

YOU READ IT HERE

Allianz seeks to exit its insurance JVs with Bajaj

German Co Did Not Increase Stake In JV Despite Relaxed FDI Limits Due To Dispute With Partner

The Times of India dated Oct 23, 2024

The Disagreement

- Allianz and Bajaj tied up in 2001 where Allianz held a **26% stake** (then the maximum limit)
- The understanding was that Allianz could **increase its stake at a fixed price by 2016**. However, Allianz did not increase its stake due to a disagreement even after FDI limits were raised

The Backstory

- Bajaj entered insurance biz in 2001 after being **approached by Allianz**, which had fallen out of another partnership
- So keen was Allianz for a partnership that it had **agreed to fund a large part of the investment** into the insurance business despite having a minority stake of 26%

Musk's Starlink likely to face spectrum tax

Costly Affair: May Need To Pay 3% Bandwidth Usage Charge On Its Adjusted Gross Revenue

Pankaj.Doval
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Starlink is likely to face a spectrum tax in India, which had been abolished for terrestrial network providers, such as Reliance Jio, Airtel and Vodafone Idea a few years back, sources said. The tax, if imposed, will increase service costs for Elon Musk-run satcom venture in India.

The move will be another challenge for the American satellite major, which is negotiating stiff compliance mandates related to internet suspension and interception..

Sources told **TOI** that Starlink, which will be allotted telecom airwaves through administrative allocation (in line with the new Telecom Law passed in Dec 2023), will need to cough up around 3% spectrum usage charge (SUC) on its adjusted gross revenue from the country.

"Since spectrum will be 'administratively assigned' to satellite operators instead of auction, SUC will be applicable, for which final rates are being worked upon," one of the sources said.

This will mean that apart from 8% licence fee, that all telcos need to pay, satcom players will be required to shell out an additional charge for spectrum. "It may even be higher than 3%, though this is still being discussed."

The matter related to the pricing of satellite spectrum, its tenure and other taxation is currently being finalised by regulator Trai. "Discussions within Trai are believed to have come to the conclusion that there is a requirement to mandate SUC for satcom players, since they will be allotted spectrum administratively at a pre-determined price," the source added.

Trai is likely to submit its recommendations on the issue of satcom spectrum allocation soon, and these will then be considered by the department of telecom (DoT). After analysis of the recommendations, DoT may raise further queries on the matter with specific references. Once satisfied, DoT will take up the matter with the inter-ministerial Digital Communications Commission (DCC). After DCC's approval, it will be taken up by the Cabinet.

In June 2022, govt had taken a decision to remove SUC for bandwidth that had been auctioned after Sept 15, 2021 across different frequencies.

Sources said SUC will also be applicable for other satellite operators, such as Eutelsat One Web (where Airtel promoter Sunil Mittal has a stake) and Reliance Jio-SES (satcom JV between Jio Platforms and Luxembourg-based SES).

TRAI TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL SOON

- Govt decided to remove spectrum user charge (SUC) in June 2022 for bandwidth that had been auctioned after Sept 15, 2021, across different frequencies
- "Since spectrum will be 'administratively assigned' to satellite operators instead of auction, SUC will be applicable, for which final rates are being worked upon," said a source
- This will mean that apart from 8% licence fee, satcom players will need to shell out an additional charge for spectrum, which can be higher than 3%, the source added
- It is learnt that telecom regulator Trai feels there is a need to mandate SUC for satcom players as they will be allotted spectrum administratively at a pre-determined price

At $14bn, trade deficit in Feb lowest in over 3 yrs

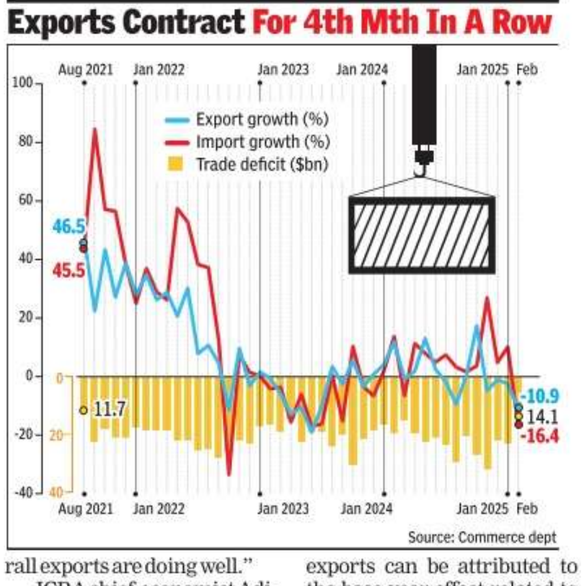
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's trade deficit has narrowed to a 42-month low of $14 billion in Feb 2025, thanks primarily to **imports slowing to $51 billion**, data released by the commerce ministry showed on Monday. But volatility in petroleum prices and global uncertainties meant that exports last month fell to $36.9 billion, compared to $41.4 billion in the same month last year. In the 11 months of FY25, merchandise and services exports rose 6.2% to $750.5 billion compared to $706.4 billion in the year-ago period.

Union commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said, "This has been a difficult year in terms of trade. Still, we are on the right track of meeting our target of crossing $800 billion in trade, which was $778 billion last fiscal. Non petroleum products are the key strength of Indian trade and that is growing at over 6%. Except gems and jewellery, all key sectors are growing well. Our focus is on increasing services sector, which has grown at 14%. Overall exports are doing well."

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said, "Merchandise trade deficit compressed to $14.1 billion in Feb 2025 from $19.5 billion in Feb 2024, largely explained by a compression in imports of oil, gold and silver. A portion of the year-on-year decline in merchandise exports can be attributed to the base year effect related to the leap month. The trade deficit was also significantly lower than the average of over $23 billion during the first 10 months of FY25. We expect current account to witness a surplus of $5 billion in Q4 FY25 in the ongoing quarter."

Exports Contract For 4th Mth In A Row



Engaging with US to up trade: Commerce secy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid US President Donald Trump's tariff threats, India is engaging with the US to find ways of increasing trade and discussing the concerns of both the partners. "We are working on increasing the trade between the two countries from current $200 billion to over $500 billion. All measures required to bolster trade ties will be discussed with the US bilaterally," commerce secretary **Sunil Barthwal** said on Monday.

"Positive talks continue and we are discussing all issues. We are proactively engaged with them. Their concerns, our concerns, and the mutual concerns, all are being addressed," he added. EEPC India chairman Pankaj Chadha said, "The big shift in US trade policy threatens to negatively impact global trade." Barthwal said, "Govt is weighing both opportunities and challenges emerging from US tariffs. We are conducting stakeholder consultations."

RBI pumped liquidity, cut rates, but loans cost same

Banks' Cost Of Funds Has Not Dropped Yet As Credit Growth Continues To Outpace Deposits

Mayur.Shetty
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: RBI has pumped in over Rs 5 lakh crore into the banking system since mid-Jan through bond purchases, forex swaps and early-April maturity repos. To ensure that liquidity remains surplus so that its rate cut can be transmitted to borrowers, the central bank plans to inject another Rs 50,000 crore through bond repurchases on Tuesday.

Although a 25-basis-point cut in repo rate in Feb brought relief to homebuyers, neither the cut nor the record liquidity has reduced cost of funds for corporate borrowers. This is because the interest rate for corporates depends on the one-year marginal cost of lending rates, which reflects that cost at which banks raise funds. The one-year MCLR for the country's top lender State Bank of India has been rock steady at 9% - the highest level since RBI started raising rates.

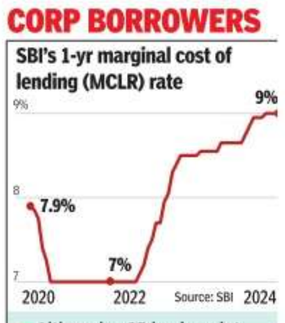
While the central bank has undertaken record liquidity infusion, the reaction of money markets has been muted largely because of year-end demand for funds and the rise in yields globally. Banks are reluctant to reduce interest rates on term deposits because credit growth (9.5% until end-Feb) continues to outstrip deposit growth (8.8%).

Since RBI reduce the repo rate no major bank has brought down its deposit rate. The lowering of FD rates has been done largely by some small finance banks who have been reassessing their growth targets given the stress in the sector. Currently there are seven small finance banks and four private banks offering over 8% rates on the fixed deposits.

Second, even as RBI infuses record liquidity, it continues to drain rupees out of the banking system by selling dollars from its forex reserves. This sale of dollars has helped stabilise the system and the liquidity measures have helped address immediate shortages, but they have not yet fully succeeded in reducing short-term interest rates due to ongoing liquidity deficits and economic uncertainties.

With the year-end pressure to lend, bankers say that cost of funds will decline in the first quarter of FY26.

NO RELIEF FOR CORP BORROWERS



- Although a 25-basis-point cut in repo rate in Feb brought relief to homebuyers, neither the cut nor the record liquidity has reduced cost of funds for corporate borrowers

TAFE appoints Lakshmi Venu as VC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Next-gen is coming to the forefront at TAFE as Lakshmi Venu, director of TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment), is appointed vice-chairperson of the company. She is the daughter of TAFE CMD Mallika Srinivasan and TVS Motor chairman emeritus Venu Srinivasan.

Said Mallika Srinivasan, CMD, TAFE, "Lakshmi Venu has been a key member of our leadership team and a member of TAFE's board. With her leadership style that is focused on building for the future, we look forward to her leveraging TAFE's collaborative, value-based approach towards its vision of 'Cultivating the World'."

Lakshmi Venu's elevation ties in with the founder-family's next generation heading both TAFE and TVS. While Lakshmi Venu is also MD at TVS group company Sundaram-Clayton, a leading automotive component manufacturer, her brother Sudarshan Venu is MD of TVS Holdings and also heads TVS Motor Company as MD. He is also the chairman of TVS Credit Services, the group's NBFC.

Added P B Sampath, director, TAFE, "She carries the rich legacy of inherited values from the founder's family and is sure to bring in an enriching dynamism into TAFE's march into the future."

GEN-NEXT

Responding to her appointment as vice-chairperson at TAFE, Lakshmi Venu said, "I look forward to working closely with the board and the teams at Tafe and Eicher tractors to strengthen our organisation and drive continued success to achieve our strategic goals." Lakshmi Venu's appointment indicates that the ownership and management of TVS Holdings and TAFE is likely being aligned among the family members.

In March 2024, Venu Srinivasan announced that his family had executed an MoU to avoid competition among themselves. Among other things, Sudarshan had agreed that he and those controlled by him shall not use certain trademarks (including TVS) in relation to certain businesses.

TaMo's ex-MD Butschek back as ind director

Mumbai: Tata Motors has brought back its former MD Guenter Butschek, this time as an independent director. His tenure will be for five years, starting from May 1, 2025. Butschek, a German national, previously served as Tata Motors MD for 5 years from Feb 2016. Since Butschek's departure in 2021, the flagship of Tata Group has been without an MD. This move comes as Tata Motors separates its commercial vehicles business into a new entity. TNN

Reforms have made India attractive: Boeing

Saurabh.Sinha
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New Delhi: American aerospace major Boeing will increase its sourcing from India, which is currently at Rs 10,000 crore annually from about 320 suppliers here, as it emerges from its worst ever crisis. While Indian airline customers will get two aircraft per month this year and next, its plans for India go beyond planes. Boeing's senior VP Brendan Nelson is in India and shared with **TOI** the company's plans here. **Excerpts:**

Indian airlines have been facing a long wait for Boeing planes. Do you have any good news for them?

On the commercial side, our deliveries are increasing. We're capped at 38 a month on the B737 MAX (which accounts for a lion's share of orders in India) by the FAA. We expect to get to 38 a month in the first half of this year. That is all being determined by absolutely ensuring the quality and the safety of the products that we're producing.

We are confident B787 Dreamliner production will increase from five a month to seven. That is good news for Indian customers both on the 737 and the 787. Air India will get some of the ordered wide body aircraft over the next two years.

Boeing completed the flight procedures for the upcoming Greater Noida and Navi Mumbai airports with AAI. What are the other areas you are working on here?

> Strengthening our presence in India and supporting India's strength, strengthens us in the US. Good for Boeing and good for the bilateral relationship
>
> **Brendan Nelson**
> Senior VP, Boeing

Linking of airports and the relationship between airports — primary, secondary, regional and so on — is a good illustration of where an original equipment manufacturer's commitment to a country really lies. Selling commercial airplanes and defence platforms is extremely important. But if that is all we do for India, then we are not serving India's interests.

We have eight decades of partnership with India. We don't see India as a transactional relationship. So these investments in airports; training of pilots, technicians, ground crews; MROs; in our JV Tata Boeing Aerospace; on the Apaches; in Boeing Engineering India Technology Centre in Bangalore and Chennai are critically important investment in India's future and through it of course in Boeing's future.

What are your plans to grow sourcing of goods and services from India?

We've got about 320 suppliers in India who provide very high quality components and parts. A quarter of those are small businesses, which is also extremely important. So, the spend is about $1.3 billion a year on Indian suppliers. And the extent to which that grows will depend on how many planes we produce. Our backlog is 5,500 planes.

India is an emergent superpower. The reforms that have been undertaken in India make it a very attractive place for companies like us. Strengthening our presence in India and supporting India's strength, strengthens us in the US. Good for Boeing and good for the bilateral relationship.

Any plans to have a final assembly line in India?

It will be some time before there is a demand in the region to justify the business case for a final assembly line.

'Digitalisation has helped boost farm, MSME lending'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: SBI chairman C S Setty said that several initiatives taken by govt to formalise the MSME and agriculture sectors through digitalisation have enabled banks to lend to these segments. He noted that digitalisation has transformed these areas, allowing banks to develop innovative models that expand formal credit access to previously underserved sectors.

Setty was speaking at the 77th AGM of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on Sunday. The session was presided over by IBA chairman and Central Bank of India MD & CEO M V Rao, IBA chief executive Atul Kumar Goel. M Nagaraju, financial services secretary was the chief guest.

Nagaraju said that banks have shown strong performance over the last three years, including in the past three quarters of the current fiscal. "Each bank also needs to identify its focus on building capacity and planning road maps for appropriate and timely capital raising and efficient allocation of resources besides striving to bring down intermediation costs," he said.

In his address Setty said that banks play a critical role in financial intermediation and nation-building. He called upon IBA to facilitate the exchange of information from global institutions and agencies, share best practices, and create a pool of experts to support financial institutions.

SpiceJet's Singh to infuse ₹294cr, up stake to 34%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: SpiceJet founder-promoter Ajay Singh will raise his stake in the airline from 29.1% to 33.5% by infusing Rs 294 crore through Spice Healthcare (a promoter group company). This funding will happen through the conversion of 13.1 crore warrants into an equivalent number of equity shares. The airline said

Singh is disposing up to 3.1 crore equity shares and will utilise the proceeds to enable Spice Healthcare to partially fund the balance of 75% of the amount at the time of allotment of the equity shares pursuant to exercise of option to convert said warrants.

Singh said: "This fresh infusion reaffirms our commitment to the airline and its bright future. This investment will further strengthen financial position and drive growth."

GALLERY

Draper pummels Rune to win first Masters 1000 title

Indian Wells: Britain's Jack Draper thrashed Denmark's Holger Rune 6-2 6-2 to collect the biggest title of his career at Indian Wells on Sunday with a place in the top 10 assured for the first time. The 23-year-old Draper has suffered a lingering hip issue this year but looked fine as he zipped around the court with ease on Sunday, firing 21 winners to cap a superb week.

Andreeva beats top seed Sabalenka for Indian Wells title: Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva fought back to overcome world number one Aryna Sabalenka 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the Indian Wells final on Sunday, winning a second WTA 1000-level event in a row to keep her charmed year on track.

Sindhu, Lakshya hope to regain form: Star shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will continue their quest to regain top form when the $250,000 Swiss Open gets underway in Basel on Tuesday, with draws filled with Indians.

MotoGP title race to be a Marquez family feud: Marc Marquez expects his younger brother Alex to be his main rival as he chases a seventh MotoGP world championship crown and is convinced it is just a matter of time before the Gresini Racing rider wins his first race in the premier class.

McIlroy beats Spaun in playoff for second Players title: Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland celebrated St. Patrick's Day by winning a three-hole aggregate playoff vs JJ Spaun to capture his second title at The Players Championship on Monday morning at Ponte Vedra Beach. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: NZ vs Pak, 2nd T20I, 6.45 am (Sony, Fancode); **FOOTBALL:** I-League, Sporting Club Bengaluru vs Real Kashmir FC, 7 pm (Sony)

Sting in the tail

Torres Double Helps Barca Claim Late 4-2 Comeback Win At Atletico Madrid

Getty Images

Torres (front) celebrates Barca's winner with Gavi

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts
Barcelona	27	60
Real Madrid	28	60
Atletico	28	56

Madrid: Barcelona battled back from two goals down to beat Atletico Madrid 4-2 and land an important blow in the Spanish title race on Sunday.

Lamine Yamal struck in the 92nd minute and Ferran Torres in the 98th to help take the Catalans back top of the table after Real Madrid beat Villarreal on Saturday to briefly claim pole position. Barcelona have a game in hand on the champions with both sides level on 60 points, while Atletico trail the top two by four after they crumbled at home against Hansi Flick's side to end a disastrous week following their Champions League elimination.

LA LIGA

Having twice been caught out late by Atletico this season, this time it was Barcelona's turn to provide the sting in the tail, extending their unbeaten streak to 18 matches across all competitions.

Julian Alvarez and Alexander Sorloth put Atletico ahead before Robert Lewandowski and Torres hit back for Barca, who went on to win in stoppage time. "Beating Atletico was a statement win, we put ourselves back as leaders having played a game fewer," said Yamal.

Barcelona's best chance of the first half came towards the end of it, when Pedri played in Lewandowski, who hit the top of the crossbar with a powerful drive. From the resulting goal kick, Atletico found the opener. The hosts worked the ball to Antoine Griezmann, who threaded a brilliant pass across the area to Giuliano Simeone, with Alvarez finishing from his cut-back.

Diego Simeone turned to his bench to freshen up his side after the draining Champions League defeat last week. The coach introduced Sorloth and Conor Gallagher and they combined for Atletico's second goal. Atletico put together another fine team move with Griezmann heavily involved, before Gallagher squared to perennial super-sub Sorloth to net his 11th league goal of the season, despite just nine starts.

Martinez drove forward with the ball and slung it into the box for Lewandowski, who controlled well and powered a low finish past Oblak to spark the comeback. Substitute Torres soon netted the equaliser when Raphinha crossed from the right. With Atletico shaken, Barcelona took full advantage, with Yamal's deflected shot from distance sending them ahead in stoppage time. AFP

'Desi' coaches grow in stature

Marcus.Mergulhao
@timesofindia.com

Panaji: Khalid Jamil is a man of few words, even fewer when in front of journalists.

So, when Jamshedpur FC confirmed their spot among the top six for this season's Indian Super League (ISL), and consequently secured a place in the playoffs, his response, not surprisingly, was a standard one. "We are delighted to have made it to the playoffs, but the credit goes entirely to the players," said Jamil, the first Indian coach to take a team to the knockout stage after taking charge at the start of the season.

"They have worked incredibly hard throughout the season, and this achievement is a reflection of their dedication," he added.

To truly understand what Jamil has done at Jamshedpur this season, you need to look at Odisha FC and Chennaiyin FC. Odisha are managed by Sergio Lobera, the only coach to win the League with two different clubs (FC Goa, Mumbai City), and the only one to do the shield and trophy double in 2021. Then there's Owen Coyle, who has managed in the Premier League, took Chennaiyin to the final in spectacular fashion and won the League with Jamshedpur against all odds.

This season, though, champion coaches like Lobera and Coyle both finished outside the playoff spots. "What Jamil has done at Jamshedpur is remarkable, but how many club owners actually trust Indian coaches," asked Armando Colaco, former India coach and the only one to win five national league titles with Dempo SC. "Hats off to Jamshedpur for showing faith. He hasn't let them down," added the veteran.

ISL

India has 46 AFC Pro License Diploma holders, the highest qualification available for a coach in Asia. In the last two years alone, 26 young coaches have secured their license, but opportunities are available only to a handful.

This season, besides Jamil, Thangboi Singto was handed charge at Hyderabad FC, but lost his job midway into the season. His replacement, Shameel Chembakath, did a decent job with a young squad, as HFC finished 12th among 13 teams. The one at the bottom — Mohammedan Sporting — saw Mehrajuddin Wadoo trying his best to salvage the situation, following the resignation of Andrey Chernyshov.

Purushothaman TG was handed interim charge of Kerala Blasters, following the sacking of Mikael Stahre.

"Unless top clubs put their trust in Indian coaches, we will not progress. We have so many good coaches, but they are either without work or serving as assistants. When will they get their chance? Look at Clifford (Miranda). With his proven qualities, why doesn't anyone make him the head coach," wondered Colaco, who was recently honoured with the Dronacharya Award, the highest recognition for coaches in the country.

Clifford, for the unaware, won the Super Cup with Odisha in 2023 but hasn't yet managed a team on his own. He is now assistant to Petr Kratky at Mumbai City.

"Indian coaches cannot be just stop-gap options," said Colaco. "I've said this before too; unless you trust your own people, how will they grow?"

Happy days at Newcastle

Club Wins 1st Major Trophy In 70 Years

Reuters

CUP OF JOY: Alexander Isak celebrates with the trophy

London: After 70 long years the wait is over for Newcastle. The Saudi-backed club beat Liverpool 2-1 to win the English League Cup and end an agonizing trophy drought.

Dan Burn and Alexander Isak scored either side of halftime on Sunday to seal victory at Wembley. And even though Liverpool substitute Federico Chiesa set up a tense finish to the final with a goal in added time, nothing was going to stand in Newcastle's way.

LEAGUE CUP

"After 70 years we can now say we are the champions again," a tearful Newcastle captain Bruno Guimaraes said. Newcastle's last major domestic trophy was the FA Cup in 1955. Burn's header opened the scoring and Isak doubled the lead with a sweeping shot. Eddie Howe became the first home coach to win one of England's top domestic honours since 2008.

The defeat ended a painful week for the Merseyside club, which was also knocked out of the Champions League on Tuesday after losing to PSG in a penalty shootout. AP

AMORIM SEES SOME SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

Leicester: Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim said he was starting to see improvements in his team after they cruised to a 3-0 victory at Leicester City in the Premier League on Sunday.

Goals from Rasmus Hojlund, Alejandro Garnacho and Bruno Fernandes, however, steered United to victory in the drizzle.

"I think the performances are improving," Amorim said.

"I'm starting to see different things in the team, especially today." Goals for Danish striker Hojlund and Argentine winger Garnacho were especially welcome before the run-in.

Hojlund had not scored in his previous 22 matches in all competitions before his fine first-half finish, with Garnacho drawing a blank in 24 games prior to his second-half goal.

"It's really important for him (Hojlund)," Amorim added. "He's fighting for every ball and today he scored a very good goal, very important goal. He deserved that goal more than anybody." REUTERS

LE CLASSIQUE: PSG WIN MARRED BY RACIST CHANTS

Paris: Homophobic and racist chanting during the biggest match in the French league between Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille again highlighted French soccer's inability to properly deal with both issues.

A French campaign group on Monday called on the country's authorities to punish the discriminatory singing, while Marseille midfielder Adrien Rabiot, a former PSG player who was treated badly throughout the game, took aim at the club's president.

The abuse tarnished PSG's 3-1 win in what is known as 'Le Classique.' French referees have the power to stop play if fans chant homophobic and racist slurs. But Sunday's match at the Parc des Princes was not paused by referee Clement Turpin, who is considered one of the best in Europe. AP

Singh faces four-way BFI contest; Thakur's camp petitions HC

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Boxing Federation of India's (BFI) president Ajay Singh will be locked in a four-way contest for the top post in the forthcoming sports body's elections on March 28, it was revealed on Monday. This news came on a day Anurag Thakur's faction petitioned the Delhi HC seeking inclusion of his name in the electoral roster after his nomination was rejected by Returning Officer RK Gauba.

Thakur had submitted his nomination as one of the representatives from his home federation of Himachal Pradesh boxing association (HPBA) to contest the BFI's elections for the prospective president's post.

The HPBA has challenged the federation's March 7 diktat issued by Singh, terming it illegal, whilst contending that Thakur, a four-time Lok Sabha MP, has been an elected member of the executive council. The court is expected to hold a hearing into the matter in coming days.

Incumbent Singh is facing a challenge from his own secretary general Hemanta Kalita and vice-president Rajesh Bhandari for the top post. Kerala state boxing association's secretary D Chandralal is the fourth contender. Bhandari has again applied for the north zone's VP post, which he currently holds.

Ensure gender parity in sports, Delhi HC directs ministry

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court directed the sports ministry to ensure parity in the participation of men and women athletes in events organised by national sports federations.

Justice Sachin Datta also asked the ministry to ensure that the pool of participating athletes was "broad enough" to include not only those who participated in international events but also those who played in domestic, local, or Khelo India sporting events. HC's order last week came on a plea challenging a Feb 13, 2025 notification issued by the Badminton Association of India. The notification restricted the participation of women para-athletes by providing them with only eight slots per event, whereas men para-athletes received 16 slots.

"It is a matter of record that female athletes have brought significant sporting glory to the country, and this court cannot countenance a situation where equilibrium is not maintained between the male and female contingents in sporting events," it added.

HC stated that the principle of gender parity in sports was mandated under constitutional provisions. The court added, "It is directed that ministry of youth affairs and sports must endeavour to ensure parity is maintained."

O-1614

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.
E-mail Id serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

Bid Identification No. Building Tender Online RWCSBP-23/2024-25 No: 891 Dated: 12.03.25

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for 02 (Two) nos of DIET as centre of excellance for the year 2024-25.

1	Name of work	: Construction of DIET as centre of excellance for the year 2024-25.
2	No of work	: 02 (Two) nos of DIET as centre of excellance Details as per DTCN.
3	Estimated cost	: Approximately varies from Rs.749.20 lakhs to Rs. 815.81 lakhs
4	Class of Contractor.	: 'A', & 'Special' Class
5	Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit.	: Rs. 10,000/- per set.(to be deposited On-line) in favour concerned Superintending Engineer/Executive Engineer
6	Mode of submission of tender	: Tender should be submitted only On line in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.(https//tendersodisha.gov.in)
7	EMD and mode of deposit	: **1% of estimated cost** of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCN.

8 Summary of key dates are provided below :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last date & time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur	Building Tender Online RWCSBP-23/2024-25	20.03.2025 From 11.00. A. M	03.04.2025 Up to 05.00 P.M.	02.04.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.	04.04.2025 at 11.00 AM	To be intimated later

* Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in. (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)**
* Subsequent modification/ corrigendum/Addendum if required shall appear in website only.
* The amount put to bid is exclusive of GST.
* Bidder should inspect the road before bidding and quote his rate accordingly.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur
OIPR-25091/11/0045/24-25

Office of Superintending Engineer,
Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad
Short Term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tender

No. 1811/Nivida-Moradabad/2024-25 Dated: 08.03.2025

On behalf of the Governor of UP, tender for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad online on website *http://etender.up.nic.in* from registered contractors In column No-8 from **20.03.2025** at **10.00** am to **26.03.2025** at **12.00** noon. Amount mentioned in column no. 5 & 7 shall be mandatory deposited by Net Banking Only through E-tender portal. Technical bid / Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on **26.03.2025** at 12.30 noon in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.

Sl. No	DIST-RICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST (Rs.)	Category of road contractor eligible
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	**MBD**	National Highway-734 (Package-2) The work of repairing and reinforcement of the old parts of the new proposed bypass (Bhojpur bypass, Jatpura bypass, Lungi Khurd bypass and Thakurdwara bypass) under the four-lane widening and reinforcement work.	3646.00	54.69	12 Month	300+2000 +54 =2354	"A" (Road Category)

Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website http://etender.up.nic.in. Bidder have to login Prahari URL http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/prahari/ and upload their documents As per G.O No.-879 (1) / 23-7-2020 dated 25-08-2020 and E-IN-C (Vikas) and Head of Department letter-4650 / 4NL-0C / 2020 dated 27.08.2020.

(Kuldeep Sant)
Executive Engineer
Provincial Division, PWD
Moradabad

(S.P. Singh)
Superintending Engineer
Moradabad Circle, PWD
Moradabad
For and on bealf of Governor of UP

UPID-231088/11.03.2025 www.upgov.nic.in

झारखण्ड राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पर्षद
Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board
नगर प्रशासन भवन, एच0ई0सी0, धुर्वा, राँची
दूरभाष : 2400851, 2400852, 2400979 फैक्स : 0651– 2400850 / 138,
Web: www.jspcb.nic.in (new) www.jspcb.org(old),E-mail: ranchijspcb@gmail.com

सूचना

सक्षम प्राधिकार के निदेशानुसार, झारखण्ड राज्य के सभी हितधारकों यथा Health Care Establishments को सूचित किया जाता है कि अपने संस्थान से निकलने वाले BMW के Transportation के लिये QR Code पूर्व में empaneled agency "Safe Bio" से क्रय नहीं करेंगे, क्योंकि उक्त Agency की empanelment अवधि समाप्त हो चुकी है।

वर्त्तमान में पर्षद द्वारा QR Code से संबंधित EoI की माँग दैनिक समाचार पत्रों के माध्यम से प्राप्त की गयी थी एवं इसे finalize करने की प्रक्रिया दिनांक 31.03.2025 तक पूरी कर ली जायेगी।

दिनांक 01.04.2025 से संबंधित हितधारक QR code क्रय नई agency से करना सुनिश्चित करेंगे। नये empaneled agency की सूचना समाचार पत्रों के माध्यम से दी जायेगी।

(अशोक कुमार यादव)
विशेष कार्य पदाधिकारी

PR 348621 Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board(24-25).D

O-1620

email- serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA

No: _____/ Date: _____

e- Procurement Notice for Roads works

1	Name of the work	: Construction of Road Works - (09 Nos).
2	Class of contractor	: "B", "A", Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3	Estimated Cost	: **Various from Rs.76.38 Lakhs to Rs.1308.33 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4	Details projects as per Annexure attached.	:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD-Online - 23/2024-25	18.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	28.03.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	27.03.2025 up to 2.00 P.M.	29.03.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR-25182/11/0042/24-25

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण नि० लि०
ऊर्जा भवन, 220 के0वी उपसंस्थान,
बाई–पास रोड, सिकन्दरा, आगरा–282007
(CIN: U31200UP2003SGC027460)
उ०प्र० सरकार का उपक्रम

ई–निविदा सूचना

Tender No.	Short Description	Estimated Cost in Rs. (Lac)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Tender Fee in Rs.	Tender Opening Date & Time
34/2025-26	For Replacement of Medium Power (160 KVA to 1000 KVA) Transformer in 48 Hours at various workshop under EWD, Agra	Approx. Rs. 20.00 Lac	Rs. 25,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	11.04.2025 16:00 Hrs.
35/2025-26	For Replacement of Medium Power (160 KVA to 1000 KVA) Transformer in 48 Hours at various workshop under EWD, Aligarh	Approx. Rs. 20.00 Lac	Rs. 20,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	11.04.2025 16:00 Hrs.
36/2025-26	For Replacement of Medium Power (160 KVA to 1000 KVA) Transformer in 48 Hours at various workshop under EWD, Kanpur	Approx. Rs. 25.00 Lac	Rs. 25,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	11.04.2025 16:00 Hrs.
37/2025-26	For Replacement of Medium Power (160 KVA to 1000 KVA) Transformer in 48 Hours at various workshop under EWD, Jhansi	Approx. Rs. 25.00 Lac	Rs. 25,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	11.04.2025 16:00 Hrs.
38/2025-26	For Replacement of Medium Power (160 KVA to 1000 KVA) Transformer in 48 Hours at various workshop under EWD, Banda	Approx. Rs. 20.00 Lac	Rs. 25,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	11.04.2025 16:00 Hrs.
39/2025-26	For Carriage of Transformer & Material at various workshop under EWD, Agra	Approx. Rs. 50.00 Lac	Rs. 50,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	17.04.2025 16:00 Hrs.
40/2025-26	For Carriage of Transformer & Material at various workshop under EWD, Aligarh	Approx. Rs. 50.00 Lac	Rs. 50,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	17.04.2025 16:00 Hrs.
41/2025-26	For Carriage of Transformer & Material at various workshop under EWD, Kanpur	Approx. Rs. 50.00 Lac	Rs. 50,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	17.04.2025 16:00 Hrs.
42/2025-26	For Carriage of Transformer & Material at various workshop under EWD, Banda	Approx. Rs. 50.00 Lac	Rs. 50,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	17.04.2025 16:00 Hrs.

Other Terms & Conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit at eprocurement portal of UP Government **https://etender.up.nic.in** or contact us at given address as follows:

Add. MD Office, Urja Bhawan, 220 KV Sub-Station, Bye Pass Road, Sikandra, Agra-282007 (UP) Ph. No. 9068944455. Mob. No. 9412719665

Superintending Engineer (Workshop) D.V.V.N.L. AGRA

पत्रांकः–808 / अधी0अभी0(कार्यशाला0)द0वि0वि0नि0लि0 / निविदा सूचना / दिनांक–17.03.2025

O-1618

मुख्य निर्माण यन्त्रीक कार्यालय
ग्रामम निर्माण मण्डल, बुड़बुपुर
(पुराना / पोस्ट- आमबुपुर, समीप आय विभाग, बुड़बुपुर - 760011, गंजम, ओड़िशा)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po- Ambapua, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail :- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel No. :- 0680-2404287)
E-Mail / E-despatch

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/36-2024-25/BPR

Identification No	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 36-2024-25/BPR	Buildings Works	02 Nos	Rs. 120.17 Lakhs	"B" Class & "A" Class as applicable	12 (Twelve) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur	Online Tender/36-2024-25/BPR	25.03.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	08.04.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W.Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-25071/11/0069/24-25

Govt. of Bihar

JEEViKA
Rural Development Department,
Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society
State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Bihar
3rd Floor, Vidyut Bhavan - III Bailey Road, Patna-021

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Hiring of CA firm for Statutory Auditor 2024-25 for BRLPS (Two Envelope- Offline)

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society-JEEVIKA invites RFP from eligible CA firms for Statutory Auditor 2024-25 for BRLPS. Interested CA firms may download RFP document from BRLPS website www.brlps.in/Procurement/Consultancy. Other information is as follows:

Date for start of downloading the RFP document	19/03/2025 through BRLPS website.
Pre-Bid Meeting	25/03/2025 at 11:00 AM onwards at BRLPS Office, 3rd floor, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Income Tax Golamber, Patna (Bihar).
Last Date/Time for submission of RFP (Technical and Financial)	09/04/2025 till 03:00 PM, at BRLPS office, 3rd floor, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Income Tax Golamber, Patna (Bihar).
Date/Time for Opening the Technical Bid proposal	09/04/2025 till 03:30 PM at BRLPS office, Patna (Bihar)
Nodal Person from Client	Dr. Santosh Phone: 0612-2504980 (Extn. 242)

PR. No. 021930 (B&C) 2024-25 **Chief Executive Officer cum Mission Director**

This information is available on website **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** also

संपूर्ण सुरक्षा केन्द्र में आएँ, निःशुल्क एच.आई.वी. व यौन जनित रोग जाँच एवं उपचार पाएँ।

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

WE ARE MAKING WRONG CALLS IN MANY AREAS: INZAMAM ON PAKISTAN CRICKET'S DECLINE

INJURED MESSI RULED OUT OF WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS AGAINST BRAZIL, URUGUAY

Sportzpics

226 matches as captain for Dhoni, a record in the IPL. He has won 133 games and lost 91 (NR 2).

85 unbeaten runs off 48 balls scored by Dhoni for CSK vs RCB in Bengaluru on April 21, 2019, his highest in the IPL.

190 dismissals behind the stumps (148 catches and 42 stumpings) effected by Dhoni in 257 innings, an IPL record for a wicketkeeper.

When It Comes To Dhoni These Days, The Start Of Every IPL Is Speculation Time. Will This Finally Be His Last Season? Is He Still Sharp As A 'Keeper? Can His Body Take The Wear & Tear? Apart From The Brand Value, Is He Still Relevant In CSK's Scheme Of Things? For His Legions Of Fans, Though, These Things Don't Matter. Their Hero's Presence On The Field Is Enough...

39.12

Dhoni's IPL batting average is the highest among Indian players with 5000-plus runs in the league, better than Virat Kohli (38.66), Shikhar Dhawan (35.25), Suresh Raina (32.51) and Rohit Sharma (29.72). Only 2 batters have a better average — David Warner (40.52) & AB de Villiers (39.70).

252

sixes hit by Dhoni in 229 innings, the fourth highest in the IPL behind 357 by Chris Gayle, 280 by Rohit Sharma and 272 by Virat Kohli.

—Rajesh Kumar

MSD LOVE STORY, TO BE CONTINUED...

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesofindia.com

In a pre-season promotional ad, Sanju Samson is seen telling MS Dhoni that a new 13-year-old boy in the Rajasthan Royals squad will win an IPL title before the Chennai Super Kings legend retires! The tongue-in-cheek comment will resonate with fans.

"Will this be Dhoni's last IPL?" That's a question around which a cottage industry has sprung up over the last few IPL seasons. There's no definitive answer to that question yet. No one exactly knows when it's going to happen. And by now, Dhoni himself has started enjoying this cat-and-mouse game. He loves to come up with cryptic comments about his "last few years in cricket" here and there, sending everyone in a tizzy.

After his international retirement way back in Aug 2020, the 43-year-old's batting prowess has been understandably on the wane. His body, quite clearly, struggles to take the wear and tear of the two-month grind that is the IPL. In the last two years he mostly restricted himself to 10-ball cameos, in which he looked to clear the fence.

While he has struggled to manoeuvre the strike against spinners in the middle-overs, his knees are not good enough to go for those super-quick singles that he was a master of in his prime.

But then, that's just part of the narrative. The IPL is not just about batting, bowling or fielding skills. Dhoni though remains a magnificent wicketkeeper. His experience and subtle fielding changes play a massive role. There's absolutely no doubt nobody understands the on-field dynamics in an IPL game better than Dhoni.

The topic of Dhoni's restricted game-time often comes up in conversations with Chennai Super Kings officials. Their standard reply is, "You can never buy experience in the market. It's up to Dhoni to decide when he wants to go."

There's one thing, however, that needs to be made clear — Dhoni doesn't allow himself to be a liability on the field. If we look at his IPL-2024 stats, we will see that he has scored only 167 runs in 14 games, but his average is 53.66 and strike-rate a ridiculous 220.54.

In fact, the fear factor that Dhoni still generates at the back-end of a innings is unmatched. If we go back to CSK's last game against RCB in 2024, Dhoni almost pulled off a miracle chasing a huge score, until the ball had to be changed when a six that he hit off left-arm pacer Yash Dayal in the 20th over vanished outside the ground. The new ball was dry and hard, Dayal got some extra bounce and induced an edge off Dhoni's bat that finished CSK's hopes of qualifying for the playoffs.

Had CSK made the last-four stage, there was a possibility that it could have been Dhoni's final IPL outing. The qualifier and the final were in Chennai and Dhoni would have got a chance to keep a promise that he had made to his fans a few years ago: "I will play my last IPL match at the MA Chidambaram Stadium." Dhoni doesn't always make promises, but if he does, he tries to keep them.

The IPL management, too, has played its part to ensure Dhoni gets a shot at fulfilling his promise. They tweaked a retention rule, allowing a player who retired from international cricket five years ago to be retained for Rs 4 cr ahead of the big auction. The beneficiary, obviously, was CSK and Dhoni.

The legend, though, is trying his best to be in best shape for this IPL. He was one of the first to arrive in Chennai about a month ago and has been training hard. The news that filters out of the camp suggests that his body is in better shape than where it was last year. The batting, too, isn't going badly.

New CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, too, has settled in well and there seems to be a core in place for the next few years. Still, Dhoni remains the 'super boss' of the team. Come the 19th over of a tight game, it will still be MSD making those field changes and Gaikwad will probably man the long-off boundary.

Not that the CSK diehards will mind one bit. It's a love story that they don't want to end, come what may.

MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI'S STELLAR IPL RECORD

OVERALL RECORD							
MT	RUNS	HS	AVE	50	SR	4S	6S
264	5243	84*	39.12	24	137.53	363	252
FOR CHENNAI SUPER KINGS							
234	4669	84*	40.25	22	139.28	330	222
FOR RISING PUNE SUPERGIANTS							
30	574	64*	31.88	2	124.78	33	30
IN WINS							
152	3007	75*	44.88	17	149.00	214	148
IN SUCCESSFUL CHASES							
77	1233	70*	49.32	6	134.46	84	56
IN 2024							
14	161	37*	53.66	0	220.54	14	13

5 Won five IPL trophies as captain for Chennai Super Kings — 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021 & 2023.

264 matches played by Dhoni, an IPL record. The next highest are Dinesh Karthik and Rohit Sharma (257).

Support Patidar, he'll take this RCB team forward: Kohli to fans

Chethan Shivakumar

'HAS A GREAT HEAD ON HIS SHOULDERS': RCB and India superstar Virat Kohli (centre) with newly-appointed franchise skipper Rajat Patidar (right) at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Monday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: "We believe in you, RCB." This was one of the prominent banners on display at the M Chinnaswamy stadium here on Monday. It reflected the faith reposed by Royal Challengers Bengaluru's legion of loyal fans, a few thousand of who packed their home ground for the team's first full-squad training.

While the event was the prelude to the season, the fans are pinning hopes on it being a successful 18th edition of the IPL, for a team still chasing the elusive trophy. The three-time finalists are among the three teams, which includes Punjab Kings and the Delhi Capitals, who are yet to win the coveted IPL title.

As dazzling lights illuminated the venue, one man who shone brighter than the lights was top-order bat Virat Kohli. The former skipper was widely expected to return to RCB captaincy after the franchise let go of their leader Faf du Plessis. But in a rather dramatic turn of events the Bengaluru franchise named Rajat Patidar as the new skipper.

Addressing the fans, Kohli said, "I've been here for 18 years, and I love it. We have an amazing squad this time around, and a lot of talent."

Urging the fans to back Patidar, Kohli said, "Give him all the love you can. He's an amazing talent and a great player. He has a great head on his shoulders, and he will do a great job in taking this team forward."

Among the foreign players who were soaking in the RCB experience were Englishmen Phil Salt and Jacob Bethell, along with Australian pace merchant Josh Hazlewood.

RCB will take on Kolkata Knight Riders in the season opener at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Mar 22.

"LEGENDS LIKE VIRAT BHAI, AB DE VILLIERS, CHRIS GAYLE HAVE PLAYED FOR RCB. I GREW UP WATCHING THEM. FROM THE START, I'VE LOVED THE FRANCHISE A LOT. I AM MORE THAN HAPPY THAT I GOT A NEW ROLE TO LEAD ONE OF THE BIGGEST TEAMS."
—Rajat Patidar | RCB Skipper

Capitals name du Plessis as vice-captain to Axar

FAF DU PLESSIS

New Delhi: South African batting stalwart Faf du Plessis was on Monday appointed vice-captain of Delhi Capitals for the upcoming IPL season. The former South Africa captain will be Axar Patel's deputy in the Delhi-based franchise. Axar was named DC captain on Friday. "I am very excited. Delhi has been great and the boys have been fantastic. Definitely, I feel happy and ready," the right-handed batter said in a video uploaded by the franchise.

The 40-year-old du Plessis led Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the last three seasons of the IPL. However, he was not retained by RCB ahead of the mega auction last year. PTI

PCB issues legal notice to Bosch for breaching PSL contract with Zalmi

CORBIN BOSCH

Lahore: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has issued a legal notice to South Africa's Corbin Bosch for breaching his contractual obligations with the board. Bosch was picked by Peshawar Zalmi in the Diamond category during the tenth edition of Pakistan Super League (PSL) players draft on Jan 13. Earlier this month, Mumbai Indians announced that they had picked Bosch as replacement for the injured Lizaad Williams, also from South Africa. The legal notice was served to Bosch through his agent, and the player has been asked to justify his actions of withdrawing from his contractual commitments. PTI

World 1500m win on Ingebrigtsen's mind

'I Often Race Against Myself, For Time Goals'

Rohan.Alvares@timesofindia.com

"I'm fortunate enough to have improved quite a lot in most distances. So if I break a record in the 1500 or 5000 metres, I'm not going to stop trying to improve."
—Jakob Ingebrigtsen

AP

INGEBRIGTSEN

JAKOB'S ACHIEVEMENTS

OLYMPIC GAMES		
Gold	2020 Tokyo	1500 m
Gold	2024 Paris	5000 m
WORLD C'SHIPS		
Gold	2022 Eugene	5000 m
Gold	2023 Budapest	5000 m
Silver	2022 Eugene	1500 m
Silver	2023 Budapest	1500 m
WORLD INDOORS		
Silver	2022 Belgrade	1500 m
EUROPEAN C'SHIPS		
Gold	2018 Berlin	1500 m
Gold	2018 Berlin	5000 m
Gold	2022 Munich	1500 m
Gold	2022 Munich	5000 m
Gold	2024 Rome	1500 m
Gold	2024 Rome	5000 m

Mumbai: Two indoor world records. Winning the 1500m and 3000m events at the European Indoor Championships for the third consecutive time. It's incredible to think what Jakob Ingebrigtsen has accomplished in just the first three months of 2025.

It could end up being an even more rewarding season, particularly if the Norwegian star succeeds in becoming world champion in his favourite event, the 1500 metres, for the first time later this year in Tokyo. "Yes, that's definitely the goal for the season," Ingebrigtsen revealed during an online interaction from Nanjing, where he will be competing in the World Indoor Championships this weekend.

In each of the last two editions of the World Championships, the double Olympic champion had to settle for silver in the 1500m. He would love nothing more than to go one better this time at Tokyo, where he in fact triumphed in the 1500m for his first Olympic gold at the rescheduled 2020 Summer Games.

"Like always, I try to do as good as I can, try to participate as much as possible, but ultimately the 1500 metres is my main event and my favourite event. So that's always going to be the main focus and the main goal," Ingebrigtsen added.

"Of course, I will try to participate in the 5000 and 3000 metres as well. As long as it doesn't impact my 1500 metre races in a negative way, I'm going to do both. And I'm still focusing on it and trying to improve as much as I can. I've been fortunate enough to have visible improvement in my personal best the last couple years and I'm still a big believer that I can continue that for many years in the future."

At the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold meeting in Lievin, France last month, the 24-year-old broke the indoor 1500m world record, clocking three minutes and 29.63 seconds, bettering the previous mark (3:30.60) which he himself had set on the same track three years ago. Asked about the prospect of eclipsing Hicham El Guerrouj's 1500m world record (3:26:00) which has stood since 1998, Ingebrigtsen said he still had some way to go.

"I would say I'm a person that often races against myself, and for records and time goals. I think that's also pretty accurate, that I'm always trying to improve my own personal bests," said Ingebrigtsen, whose personal best (3:26:73) makes him one of only four men in history to have run the 1500m under 3:27.

"Obviously, I'm fortunate enough to have improved quite a lot in most distances. So if I break a record in the 1500 or 5000 metre, I'm not going to stop trying to improve. But obviously, there are some records that've been standing for a longer time than others," he said.

"The 1500 has been unreachable for a very long time. So, of course, that would be a nice record to beat. But at the same time, it's still quite far down to that record — 7/10ths of a second. So I'm just trying to improve my own times. And eventually if I'm able to do that, we will obviously reach some records."

IOC recommends boxing's inclusion in Los Angeles Oly

Pylos: The International Olympic Committee executive board on Monday recommended the inclusion of boxing in the Los Angeles 2028 summer Olympics, ending a year-long saga regarding the sport's Olympic future.

The IOC last month granted provisional recognition to World Boxing in a major step towards the sport's inclusion in the 2028 Olympics. "After the provisional recognition of World Boxing in Feb, we were in the position to take this decision so that this recommendation has to go to the session," IOC president Thomas Bach said. "I am confident the session will approve it."

The recommendation will now be put to a vote at the IOC session in Greece this week and is expected to pass easily, with boxing among the popular Olympic sports.

The boxing competition at the Paris 2024 Games was run by the IOC after it had stripped the International Boxing Association of recognition in 2023 over its failure to implement reforms on governance and finance.

The IOC had not included the sport on the initial LA 2028 programme, having urged national boxing federations to create a new global boxing body. World Boxing, now with more than 80 national federations as members, was launched in 2023.

The IOC said only athletes whose national federations were members of World Boxing by the time of the start of the qualification events for the 2028 Olympics could take part in Los Angeles.

"This is a very significant and important decision for Olympic boxing and takes the sport one step closer to being restored to the Olympic programme," Boris van der Vorst, president of World Boxing said in a statement.

"I have no doubt it will be very positively received by everyone connected with boxing, at every level throughout the world, who understands the critical importance to the future of the sport of boxing continuing to remain a part of the Olympic Movement."

The IOC said only athletes whose national federations were members of World Boxing by the time of the start of the qualification events for the 2028 Olympics could take part in Los Angeles.

The IOC suspended the IBA, run by Russian businessman Umar Kremlev, in 2019 over governance, finance, refereeing and ethical issues and stripped its of recognition in 2023. REUTERS

WHERE IOC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES STAND ON THE TRANSGENDER ISSUE

The increasingly polarising debate over transgender athletes in women's sport has become a key issue for candidates vying to become the next president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Thomas Bach is stepping down after 12 years in charge and his potential successor will need a majority of the 100-odd IOC votes on Thursday to claim victory. All seven contenders are making their last plays. Here are references to where they stand on the contentious issue of transgender participation...

It is a complex matter that must be dealt with rationally to strike the right balance between the need to respect human rights and the obligation to ensure fair competition. We cannot ignore what female athletes are saying, but our decisions must also be grounded on solid scientific evidence."
—David Lappartient
HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL CYCLING FEDERATION (UCI)

"Women's sports must be ring-fenced: no ifs, no buts. There can be no grey areas. The integrity of women's sport must be protected whatever the cultural pressures. We must be guided by biological fact, not cultural trends... I firmly believe we must ensure that only those who were born female can compete in women's sport."
—Johan Eliasch
PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION (FIS)

The IOC has a fundamental duty to safeguard women's sport by adopting a policy to maintain unambiguous distinctions between men's and women's categories. The IOC must lead on this issue by setting clear guidelines for competition."
—Juan Antonio Samaranch,
MEMBER OF SPANISH NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

I'm dedicated to the equality of all athletes from all countries, which also means strengthening women's sports by protecting female athletes and promoting equal opportunities for women."
—Kirsty Coventry | ZIMBABWEAN NATIONAL SPORTS MINISTER

Protect and promote the integrity of women's sport. I'll advocate for clear, science-based policies that safeguard the female category. Women's sport is at a critical juncture."
—Sebastian Coe, PRESIDENT OF WORLD ATHLETICS

The IOC must embrace diversity, but we must also protect women's rights. We don't have a final position yet and we need more research to ensure that our decisions are based on science and respect for the rights of all."
—Morinari Watanabe | PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL GYMNASTICS FEDERATION (FIG)

Transgender people should be treated fairly and equitably, always under the principle that there should be no unfair advantages."
—Feisal Al Hussein | PRESIDENT OF JORDAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

ITBP constable guns down senior after spat over dress code

Raipur: An ITBP constable allegedly shot dead his senior colleague by firing 20 rounds from his service weapon following a heated argument in Chhattisgarh's Raipur on Monday, police said.

The incident took place at battalion headquarters of ITBP's 38th battalion under Kharora police station limits, said Raipur SSP Lal Umed Singh. As per preliminary information, constable Saroj Kumar Yadav (32) allegedly opened fire at assistant sub-inspector Devender Singh Dahiya (59) with his service weapon, an Insas rifle, killing him, the SSP said.

The official said a police team was rushed to the spot after being alerted. Another cop said Yadav was deployed on morning parade duty, during which ASI Dahiya allegedly reprimanded him for not dressing up properly. It led to a heated argument between the duo. The official said the constable fired 20 rounds from his Insas rifle on the ASI outside their barrack, killing him on the spot. A detailed investigation is underway into the incident, he added. PTI

Ajit admits Ladki funds went to well-off too, vows to 'fix' it

Maha FM Hints Scheme Could Be Linked To Loan Programmes

Priyanka.Kakodkar
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Indicating a tighter scrutiny of Mahayuti govt's flagship Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who also holds the finance portfolio, on Monday admitted in the state assembly that beneficiaries who were financially well-off also received the stipend, and now the scheme will be "corrected" to only cover poor women.

"In hurry and confusion, some sisters with a good economic condition got included in the list. The scheme is meant only for women from poor families," said Ajit. "Sometimes, once a scheme is introduced, it needs corrections. We will be making corrections. But we will not take back the money from those who received it."

He pointed out that even PM Narendra Modi appealed to the public to exit central

"In hurry and confusion, some sisters with a good economic condition got included in the list. The scheme is meant only for women from poor families
AJIT PAWAR
MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

schemes if they no longer fit the criteria. He emphasised that the scheme would not be shut down. "We will provide enough funds for the scheme & poor women will 100% receive the money," he added.

He also confirmed reports that a portion of over 40% hike in the annual plan for SCs and STs outlay in the annual plan would be used for Ladki Bahin scheme. Social justice minister Sanjay Shirsat alleged that nearly Rs 10,000 crore from the social justice and tribal welfare department was diverted to Ladki Bahin scheme. "In the annual plan, allocation for SC component has risen 42% and tribal component by 40%. Even after excluding Ladki Bahin outlay, the rise is 18% and 19%," Ajit told the assembly.

He further said Ladki Bahin scheme could be linked to loan programmes given the enormous quantum of Rs 45,000 crore that it placed in the hands of women.

"The Mumbai bank, led by BJP MLC Pravin Darekar, has already announced that those who open their Ladki Bahin accounts there will be eligible for a loan of Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000," the deputy CM said.

He defended govt's Rs 9.3 lakh crore debt and revenue deficit of Rs 45,892 crore, by saying this was within the fiscal limit. "Only Maharashtra, Odisha, and Gujarat have managed to keep these parameters within the fiscal limit," he said. He said the fiscal deficit was less than 3% of GSDP and the loan was less than 25% of GSDP. RBI's risk analysis concluded that Maharashtra had healthy fiscal indicators, he added.

He further said govt focused on infrastructure schemes, like Wadhawan port project where it was considering building an airport. "Some countries have built an airport in the sea. Such ideas are worth considering if it does not impact the environment."

India for development, not expansionism: PM to Luxon

▶Continued from P 1

As both Modi and Luxon backed a free, open, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific, Modi said they decided to strengthen and institutionalise defence and security collaboration. In addition to joint exercises, training and port visits, a roadmap for bilateral defence industry collaboration will be developed, he said.

With an eye on China, the PM also said in his media statement after the meeting that India believed in the policy of development and not expansionism. Presence of Khalistani separatists in the Five Eyes, English-speaking countries that share an intelligence alliance, and their efforts to hurt Indian interests remain a major concern for India. After raising that issue, Modi took Luxon to Rakabganj Gurdwara for a tour of the Sikh shrine.

Modi said both sides would continue to cooperate in combating terrorist, separatist and extremist elements. He said India had shared its concerns about anti-India activities by certain illegal elements in New Zealand. "We're confident that we will continue to receive full cooperation of New Zealand govt against such illegal elements," he said. "We stand united against terrorism. Whether it is Christchurch terrorist attack of March 15, 2019, or Mumbai attack of Nov 26, 2008, terrorism in any form is unacceptable. Strict action must be taken against those responsible for such attacks," he said.

PMO

PM Modi with New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon during a visit to Rakabganj Gurdwara in New Delhi on Monday

On FTA, Modi said it would increase the potential for bilateral trade and investment. "Mutual cooperation and investment shall be encouraged in fields such as dairy, food processing and pharma. We have given priority to mutual cooperation in the areas of renewable energy and critical minerals," the PM said. "Indian community living in New Zealand is making a valuable contribution to the country's social and economic development. We have agreed to work swiftly on an agreement to simplify the mobility of skilled workers and address issues related to illegal migration," he added.

In a joint statement, the two leaders reaffirmed right of freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the seas in accordance with international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as also the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes. New Zealand joined India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. Luxon strongly reiterated New Zealand's support for a permanent seat for India in a reformed UN Security Council both in the meeting with Modi, and also while speaking as the guest of honour at the Raisina Dialogue.

Both endorsed increasing defence engagements, including through participation in military exercises, staff college exchanges, regular port calls by naval ships, and exchange of high-level defence delegations. They referred to upcoming port call in Mumbai by Royal New Zealand Navy Ship HMNZS Te Kaha. Modi and Luxon backed territorial integrity and sovereignty in the Indo-Pacific, and also expressed support for a just and lasting peace based on respect for international law in Ukraine war. They also backed a two-state solution for Gaza.

The two reiterated their "absolute condemnation" of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and the use of terrorist proxies in cross-border terrorism. "Both stressed need for all countries to take immediate, sustained, measurable and concrete action against UN-proscribed terrorist organisations and individuals. They called for disrupting of terrorism financing networks," the joint statement said.

SC: Twenty years ago, bail cases did not even reach HCs

▶Continued from P 1

SC has repeatedly flagged the issue and appealed to trial courts and HCs to be liberal in granting bail, particularly in not serious and petty offences. It had earlier expressed anguish over "intellectual dishonesty" by lower courts & HCs in continuously denying bail to accused in cases involving ordinary infractions, despite its various orders exhorting them to be liberal in granting bail when custody is not needed.

While granting bail to an accused who had been in custody for over two years in a cheating case, the bench said, "It is unfortunate that bail matters in cases triable by magistrate come to SC for bail... We are sorry to say that people are not getting bail... It is unfortunate". SC noted that the bail plea of the accused was rejected by a trial court and Gujarat HC, despite probe in the case completed and a chargesheet filed.

Flagging the issue of SC being flooded by bail petitions as accused were coming to it for the relief, the bench said, "It is shocking that SC has to deal with such cases. Twenty years ago, such cases did not come to HCs but now it is SC, which is deciding such cases."

Observing that in a democracy there was no place for a police state where probe agencies can arrest people unnecessarily and in a mechanical way, SC in 2022 put a curb on agencies from arresting people in cognisable offences punishable up to 7 years' jail term, where custody is not needed, & had asked criminal courts to protect the liberty of people and be liberal in granting bail.

It held that the accused, who was not arrested during probe and had cooperated in the investigation, should not be taken into custody after chargesheet had been filed. It had also appealed to Centre to frame a new law to streamline the process of granting bail, saying there was "pressing need" for it, and ruled that regular bail application of an accused had to be decided normally within two weeks and anticipatory bail within six weeks.

"Courts tend to think that the possibility of a conviction being nearer to rarity, bail applications will have to be decided strictly, contrary to legal principles," court had said.

Compared to Lalu era, train mishaps down 90%: Vaishnaw

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: There were one and two accidents or derailments on an average each day during the tenures of Mamata Banerjee and Lalu Prasad as railway ministers, respectively, Ashwini Vaishnaw said in Rajya Sabha on Monday, amid attacks from opposition over recent incidents of rail mishaps.

Replying to the debate on working of railway ministry, Vaishnaw said in 2005-06, when RJD supremo Lalu was the minister, there were 698 accidents and derailments. "During TMC chief Banerjee's tenure, there were 395 accidents and derailments, and when Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge was railway minister, the number of accidents and derailments were 38," he said.

"Where there was once an average of one accident per day, today the number has been reduced to just 30 accidents per year. Even if we include 43 derailments, the total stands at 73. This means that the number, which was previously around 700, has now dropped to less than 80, a remarkable 90% reduction," Vaishnaw said.

He said around 100 locomotives would be exported soon from Marhaura factory in Bihar's Saran district. Though Lalu Prasad had announced setting up of the factory, it remained "inactive" and work began only after PM Narendra Modi came to office, the railway minister said.

Railway minister Vaishnaw said railway finances are in good condition with continuous improvement efforts under way

'Made in Bihar' locomotives will soon be reaching destinations across the world, he said. Reading out the list of countries importing trains and locomotives from India, he said while metro coaches are being exported to Australia, train bogies are being shipped to UK, Saudi Arabia, France and Australia. Similarly, India is exporting propulsion systems to France, Mexico, Romania, Spain, Germany and Italy, he added.

He said railway finances are in good condition with continuous improvement efforts underway. The national transporter has successfully overcome Covid pandemic-related challenges, and both passenger and cargo traffic are showing growth, Vaishnaw said. "Railways is fulfilling its expenses from its own income because of good performance... Overall, the financial condition is good and we are trying to improve it on a constant basis," he said.

The minister said the cost of train travel per km is around Rs 1.4 but passengers are charged only 73 paise. He added that this year, 1,400 locomotives were produced, exceeding the combined production of US and Europe, and by March 31, Indian railways will be among the world's top three freight carriers with 1.6 billion tonnes of cargo.

Responding to charges of railways reducing general and non-AC coaches, Vaishnaw said the number of general coaches is being increased to 2.5 times that of AC coaches. "Under the current production plan, 17,000 non-AC coaches are scheduled for manufacturing," he added.

T'gana banks on door-to-door survey data to build quota case

▶Continued from P 1

Telangana Backward Classes (reservation of seats in rural and urban local bodies) Bill 2025 extends the 42% BC quota to rural and urban local bodies. Before this, BC reservation in local bodies ranged from 18% to 23%, depending on population of each municipality or panchayat.

Revanth put his hand up to lead an all-party delegation to PM Modi and other senior MPs to press for the proposed constitutional amendment. He said empirical data from a door-to-door survey by state govt would drive this amendment. The data, which includes information on BCs, SCs, and STs, is being presented as a bulletproof argument for exceeding the 50% cap on reservations, a step Supreme Court had indicated could be considered if the numbers backed it.

Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar said the initial plan was to earmark 15% for SCs, which was increased to 18% based on a suggestion by AIMIM's Akbaruddin Owaisi. But the House rejected three amendments proposed by BRS. These called for a 42% quota for BCs in all govt contracts, creation of a BC subplan similar to those for SCs and STs, and a Rs 20,000-crore allocation for BC welfare in the upcoming budget.

Revanth, along with deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka and BC welfare minister Ponnam Prabhakar, expressed confidence that a constitutional amendment was a matter of time. Prabhakar urged all political parties to set aside their differences to institutionalise the 42% BC quota, drawing inspiration from Tamil Nadu's success in securing similar reservation for them through bipartisan support.

The assembly also discussed Telangana Scheduled Castes (rationalisation of reservations) Bill, which deals with the sub-classification of SCs. It will be debated on Tuesday before being sent to the governor for approval. Supreme Court has empowered states to sub-classify SCs.

Revanth informed the House that the erstwhile BRS govt had sent a proposal to Centre for 37% BC reservation. He said Congress govt would withdraw that proposal and send a new one for 42% reservation as the two proposals couldn't coexist.

We stand ready to work with India, says China

▶Continued from P 1

Building upon PM Modi's remarks, the Chinese foreign ministry said that Sino-Indian ties were characterised by mutual learning and friendly exchanges for over 2,000 years.

"China appreciated PM Modi's recent positive statements. The successful meeting between President Xi and PM Modi in Kazan last Oct provided strategic guidance for the improvement and development of bilateral ties. Both sides have earnestly followed through on the important common understandings of our leaders, strengthened exchanges and practical cooperation at all levels, and achieved a series of positive outcomes," a ministry spokesperson said, responding to a question at a media briefing.

The official added China stood ready to work with India to implement the understandings that both leaders had reached in their meeting.

Asserting that China's ties with India contributed to the progress of civilisations and humanity, the official also said the two largest developing countries had a shared task to achieve "development and revitalisation, and should understand and support each other, and help each other succeed".

"This serves the fundamental interests of over 2.8 billion people in the two countries, meets the common aspiration of regional countries, follows the historical trend of the Global South growing stronger, and is conducive to world peace, stability, development and prosperity," the official said.

India and China had reached an agreement in Oct last year to complete the disengagement process in eastern Ladakh and effectively end the nearly-five-year-old military stand-off.

Modi said in his podcast that efforts were on to ensure the pre-2020 situation.

"China stands ready to work with India to implement the important common understandings between the two leaders, take the 75th anniversary of China-India diplomatic relations as an opportunity, promote exchange and cooperation in various fields and at all levels, and advance China-India relations on the track of sound and stable development," the official said.

Modi joins Truth Social, thanks Trump

As US President Donald Trump shared PM Narendra Modi's Lex Fridman podcast on Truth Social, the PM debuted on the social media platform to thank him. "Thank you, my friend, President Trump. I've covered a wide range of topics, including my life journey, India's civilisational outlook, global issues and more," Modi wrote in his response. In the podcast, Modi had strongly backed Trump's policies saying he had a clear roadmap in mind and had returned to the White House far more prepared than the last time. Modi also said that just like him, Trump also put nation first. TNN

Fadnavis, Gadkari urge Nagpur residents not to believe rumours

▶Continued from P 1

Reports of violence triggered a swift response from another community, with large crowds gathering to demand action against those responsible. The protests escalated into stone-throwing, arson and clashes with police. Officials said misinformation spread via social media played a major role in fuelling the violence.

Security forces used riot-control vehicles, including water cannons and tear gas units, to disperse mobs. DCPs Archit Chandak and Niketan Kadam were wounded while attempting to control the crowds. Firefighters were also caught in the crossfire as they tried to extinguish burning vehicles. Several neighbourhoods remained tense as sporadic violence continued.

Nagpur police commissioner Ravinder Singal deployed more than 1,000 officers and imposed prohibitory orders in Mahal, Chitnis Park Chowk and Bhaldarpura, restricting movement in the most sensitive areas. Key roads were sealed off. Reinforcements and intelligence teams worked to prevent further escalation. However, sporadic stone-throwing continued into the night.

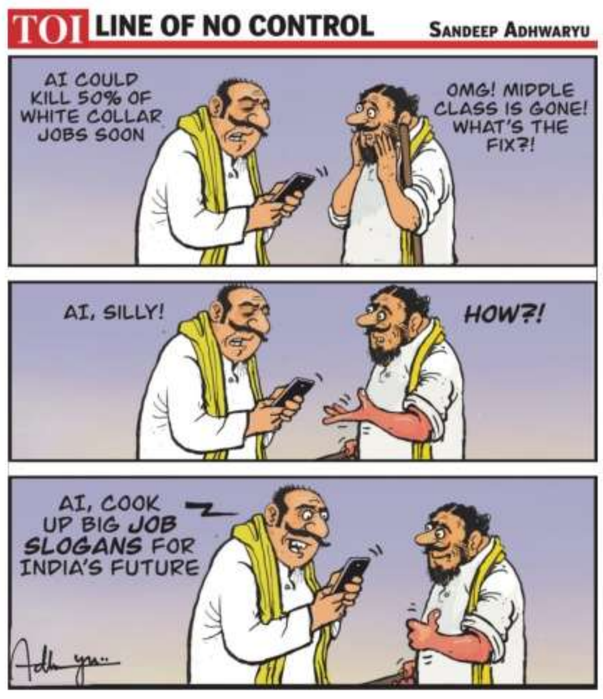
Police deployed surveillance teams with CCTV-equipped vehicles and public address systems to monitor the situation and issue warnings. Authorities also activated local peace committees, urging community leaders to intervene and defuse tensions.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and Union minister Nitin Gadkari appealed for calm. "Nagpur has always been a peaceful city where people coexist in harmony. I urge citizens not to believe rumours and cooperate with law enforcement," Fadnavis said. Nagpur guardian minister Chandrashekar Bawankule visited the affected areas.

Central Nagpur MLA Pravin Datke alleged that "outsiders" were brought in to incite violence. "We have instructed police to identify and take strict action against those responsible," he said in Mumbai. In Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district, where Aurangzeb's tomb is located, VHP and Bajrang Dal staged protests. Protesters warned of the tomb's demolition if govt failed to act.

VHP hinted at escalating their agitation across Marathwada and other districts if demands are not met.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU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Majithia quizzed by SIT for 8 hrs in '21 drugs case

Patiala: Veteran SAD member Bikram Singh Majithia Monday appeared before an SIT in Patiala over a drugs case registered against him in Dec 2021. It questioned him for eight hours & summoned him for another round of interrogation Tuesday, reports **Bharat Khanna**. The agency said it has uncovered suspicious financial transactions related to Majithia & his family's firms. It is probing the financial transactions of four accused, including Majithia. Other three accused are currently abroad. Police issued a blue-corner notice and are trying to extradite them, it said.

India formally asks US for USAID spend info

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The MEA has also sought information about NGOs through whom various USAID initiatives may have been executed, the ministry informed Rajya Sabha last week through minister of state Kirti Vardhan Singh

New Delhi: India has formally asked US embassy to urgently furnish details of expenditure incurred on all USAID-assisted or funded projects in India over the past 10 years. MEA informed Rajya Sabha last week, in response to a written question, that it has also sought information about NGOs through whom various initiatives may have been executed.

However, such details are yet to be provided by the US side, said minister of state for external affairs ministry Kirti Vardhan Singh in his response. He was responding to a question about US President Donald Trump's allegation that USAID spent $21 million to boost voter turnout in India's elections.

Govt had earlier said that Indian agencies were probing the issue.

"While there is some open-source information available on this matter, govt understandably expects an official response from the US govt on this matter," he said.

Publicly available information about beneficiary individuals/organisations has also been redacted in certain cases apparently in line with the exceptions outlined in US Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016.

As per that legislation, exceptional redactions include information that would jeopardise health or security of an implementing partner or programme beneficiary. Another justification is a determination that the information online would be detrimental to the national interests of US, added the minister.

On steps being taken to prevent Trump's remarks on tariffs from affecting India-US ties, the minister said both sides remain engaged to address all issues of concern including the issue of trade and tariffs in a constructive manner.

Singh said Modi's visit to Washington DC on Feb 13 offered an opportunity for both the leaders to reaffirm the strength of India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership that is anchored in mutual trust, shared interests, goodwill and robust engagement of their citizens.

Constituent Assembly settled CAG debate: SC

▶Continued from P 1

Prolific PIL litigant 'Centre for Public Interest Litigation', through advocate Prashant Bhushan, told SC that though CAG was considered independent and impartial in the past, it had lost its stature because of the drop in number of audits it conducted of Centre and states governed by the party in office at Centre.

Justice Kant, however, did not seem to fully agree with the contention about erosion of the federal auditor's autonomy. "We seem to have a great misconception about independence," he said.

Bhushan said even for selection and appointment of SC judges, CVC and CEC, there were mechanisms provided to ensure their independence, yet SC thought it fit to lay down guidelines providing for a high-level panel, including leader of opposition and CJI, for their selection to ensure that these sensitive posts are manned by persons of impeccable integrity and enjoy independence while discharging their duties.

When Bhushan said architect of the Constitution, Dr B R Ambedkar, had envisaged greater independence for CAG than SC, the bench pointed out that the Constituent Assembly had debated the viewpoint but majority did not agree with it. "The issues and questions you raise about selection and appointment of CAG were squarely answered during the Constituent Assembly debates," Justice Kant said.

The bench said there was already a PIL by one Anupam Kulshreshtha pending in SC on the same issue raised by Bhushan, who said though notice was issued a year ago, it was not listed for hearing again. Though the Constitution leaves it to the executive to appoint judges of SC and HCs in consultation with the CJI, SC in two judgments in the 1990s wrested the judge selection process to itself.

In the Vineet Narain judgment, SC had given statutory status to Central Vigilance Commission and set up a CVC selection committee comprising the PM, home minister and leader of opposition. CVC, home secretary and secretary (personnel) were mandated to select and recommend the person for CBI director post, which would have a minimum tenure of two years. A similar mechanism was laid down for appointment of ED director.

In 2023, SC had detected a vacuum in the law for appointment of CEC and ruled that CEC and ECs would be selected by a panel comprising PM, CJI and LoP. However, it also said it was for Parliament to decide the constitution of the collegium.

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Lamine Yamal (pic) & Torres score injury-time goals as Barca come back from 2 goals down away to Atletico Madrid to win 4-2 and return to the top of La Liga, **P 18**

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TRUMP SAYS BIDEN'S 11TH-HR PARDONS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO PROBED JAN 6 CAPITOL ATTACK ARE 'VOID' AS HE SIGNED THEM WITH AN AUTOPEN 16

City ex-prof, wife held hostage, robbed of ₹40L

Robbers stormed the home of a retired DU professor in northwest Delhi's Ashok Vihar at 10am on Monday, held him, his wife and maid captive at gunpoint and ransacked the house. They tied up the victims in separate rooms and looted gold and silver jewellery worth at least Rs 40 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh in cash. Prof O P Agarwal's wife Lalita apparently resisted and was thrashed. The robbers who came in an autorickshaw fled in Agarwal's car after 35-40 minutes and abandoned it later. **P 5**

Delhi student, 13, drowns in pool of Mussoorie school

A student, 13, from Delhi, studying at Mussoorie's Wynberg-Allen School, a prestigious boarding school, died Monday, allegedly after drowning in the school's pool. The student, an "accomplished swimmer", lost consciousness after completing two laps. Police have also collected CCTV footage. **P 4**

Punjab cops kill suspect in Amritsar temple blast

A man suspected of hurling a grenade at Thakurdwara temple in Amritsar on March 15 was killed in a shootout with Punjab police early Monday. Police tracked the suspects — Gursidak Singh and his aide Vishal — to Bal Sikander village. Gursidak was fatally shot after he opened fire at cops. **P 8**

2 T'gana journalists held for Revanth posts get bail in Hyd

A Hyderabad court Monday granted bail to the MD of an online news channel and its reporter after they were held for allegedly circulating defamatory content against Congress govt in Telangana and CM A Revanth Reddy on social media. It said Sec 111 of BNS (organised crime) does not attract at this stage. PTI

Gzb teacher ends life, in-laws held after dowry plaint

A teacher, 29, was found dead in her house in Ghaziabad Sunday. She texted her parents that she could no longer bear taunts from her husband and described her in-laws as "a family that only knows how to take". Her husband, a doctor, and his father were arrested over alleged dowry harassment. **P 6**

12 Punjab cops suspended for 'assault' on Col, son

Twelve Punjab police officers have been suspended following allegations that they assaulted a senior Army officer and his son during a dispute over parking outside a roadside eatery in Patiala on March 13. Colonel Pushpinder Bath is currently on deputation with RAW. TNN

May set up SIT to probe officials, SC warns Noida

'Authorities Are Responsible For Realty Mess'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

'SUPERTECH DUES WILL BE ERASED'

- Noida Authority argues against NCLAT handing over **Supertech's 16 unfinished projects to PSU NBCC**
- Says if NBCC took over, **land dues** owed to Noida **will remain unpaid**
- SC reacts strongly, says, 'Arrears will be wiped out. You (Noida) suffer because **you created this problem'**
- Court warns Noida it's considering setting up an SIT to fix accountability on officials for **'this mess'**
- SC on Feb 21 had stayed NCLAT's Dec 12 order asking NBCC to take over Supertech projects
- Court slated to hear **all pleas challenging NCLAT's decision** in April 1st week

> Why did you create such a framework for giving land that was wholly in favour of realtors? Because of this, thousands of homebuyers suffered for more than a decade —SC BENCH TO NOIDA AUTHORITY

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday took exception to Noida Authority appealing against the appellate company law tribunal's decision to allow PSU National Building Construction Company (NBCC) to complete 16 unfinished housing projects of bankrupt realtor Supertech and said it could set up a Special Investigation Team to fix accountability on officials.

Noida, through senior advocate Sanjiv Sen, told a bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and Joymalya Bagchi that when the realtor was undergoing insolvency proceedings, it was beyond National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's jurisdiction to award the sites to NBCC. He said under insolvency proceedings, the successful resolution applicant (SRA) would be liable to clear statutory dues — land dues owed to Noida and repayment of loans to banks.

The bench, aware of the mess thousands of homebuyers find themselves in due to non-completion of housing projects by Supertech, told Noida that the land arrears may get wiped out. "Arrears will be wiped out. You (Noida authority) suffer because you created this problem," the CJI-led bench said and asked, "How much concession are you ready to give?" It sought Noida's response on this while issuing notice to NBCC.

▶ **'Made to suffer', P 5**

Aurangzeb tomb tension: Arson, stone-pelting in Nagpur, 50 arrested

Soumitra Bose & Ved Ghulghule

Aniruddhasingh Dinore

At least 10 police commandos, 2 IPS officers and two firemen were injured in the clashes

Nagpur: Violent clashes broke out in central Nagpur late Monday after protests demanding the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in Khultabad spiralled into chaos, leaving dozens wounded and causing widespread destruction.

▶ **Fadnavis laments govt has to protect grave, FLAP INSIDE**
▶ **Outfit announces ₹21L for razing tomb, FLAP INSIDE**

At least 10 anti-riot commandos, two senior police officers, and two firemen suffered serious wounds in the unrest, while a constable remains in critical condition in hospital. Mobs torched two bulldozers and 40 vehicles, including police vans, as security forces struggled to contain the violence. Police launched a large-scale crackdown, arresting 50 rioters, while the MHA sought a report on the unrest — just two weeks before PM Modi's expected visit to Nagpur. The violence erupted following rumours that protesters from a particular community had burned effigies of Aurangzeb & a religious chadar near Shivaji Putla Square at Mahal Gate — barely 2km from the RSS headquarters.

▶ **'Stop rumours', P 20**

Man dies while cleaning DJB sewer in New Friends Colony

New Delhi: A 43-year-old man, Panth Lal Chander (pic), died and another is in critical condition in hospital after three workers, who went inside a manhole while engaged in Delhi Jal Board work in southeast Delhi's New Friends Colony on Sunday, got asphyxiated, police said, **reports Devanshi Mehta**.

Delhi Fire Services received a call at 5.35pm and a fire tender was dispatched. While one worker was rescued by locals, firefighters arrived at the location and after approximately 30 minutes of efforts, extracted two others from the sewer who were transferred to hospital for treatment.

▶ **Toxic fumes, P 4**

T'gana assembly passes 2 bills to up BC quota to 42%, total reservation to 70%

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Hyderabad: An eight-hour reservation debate in the Telangana assembly on Monday culminated in the passage of two landmark bills that aim to extend the quantum of reservation in education, govt jobs and rural and urban self-governance from 50% to 70%, breaching Supreme Court's cap on quotas.

CM A Revanth Reddy showcased political unanimity in passing the bills – BRS, BJP, AIMIM and CPI backed the move – as a sign that the state's reservation framework deserved to be enshrined with a constitutional amendment during the ongoing session of Parliament.

The first of the proposed laws — Telangana Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (reservation of seats and appointments) Bill 2025 — proposes a 42% quota for BCs, 18% for SCs and 10% for STs, up from the existing 29% for BCs, 15% for SCs and 6% for STs.

▶ **Survey data, P 20**

YSRCP: Need clarity on delimitation

Amid the debate over the impact that LS delimitation will have on the political weight of southern states, Andhra's YSRCP has demanded that Modi govt spell out the mechanism ensuring the states that followed the policy of population control don't lose out in the process. **P 10**

Food poisoning probe reveals girl, 7, was raped and killed by dad

A Ghaziabad property dealer, 52, was arrested on Monday for raping and murdering his seven-year-old daughter a day before Holi, **reports Avishek Dubey**.

The man told police that the kid died after eating 'kadhi' cooked by Shanti Devi, a neighbour. Devi was taken into custody and charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

However, an autopsy revealed the girl was sexually assaulted and strangled, turning the case on its head and leading to the man's arrest. He confessed to raping and killing the kid in a drunken state and then building an alibi by getting himself and others checked at OPD of GTB, claiming a stomach infection. **P 5**

Avoid travel outside US, immigration attorneys tell H-1B, F-1 visa holders

Lubna Kably | TNN

EXTREME VETTING

- **Visa processing time** has increased, with instances of 'extreme vetting' earlier seen in Trump's 1st term
- Applications of people with multiple previous visas are **stuck in processing** for no apparent reason other than **additional scrutiny and security clearances**, say immigration attorneys

Be it H-1B visa holders and their kin, or international students, or even green card holders, US immigration attorneys are advising clients not to travel overseas. India is not on the proposed travel ban list by the US, but still the fear remains.

On Monday, **TOI** reported on similar advice being given to Green Card holders. The reasons range from delays in stamping at US consulates in home country, extreme vetting and cases of secondary inspection, including detention at US airports on return.

Kripa Upadhyay, an immigration attorney in Seattle, said, "This sounds heartless but foreigners (especially those needing to renew H-1B or F-1 visas) must think twice about leaving US right now."

▶ **Contingency plans, P 16**

Doc deported for Hezb pics on phone

US authorities said they deported a doctor who taught at Brown University to Lebanon after finding "sympathetic photos" of Hezbollah leader Nasrallah in her mobile's deleted items folder. **P 16**

Cornell student files pre-emptive lawsuit

An international student at Cornell University filed a lawsuit to block enforcement of two White House orders that, he fears, could result in his deportation for pro-Palestinian activism. **P 16**

Cops deny nod for fair in honour of Ghaznavi Gen

Sambhal police have refused permission for the historic Neja Mela, citing objections to its association with Syed Salar Masood Ghazi, a 12th-century military commander under Mahmud Ghaznavi, who is linked to "plundering and violence" in India. The annual fair, scheduled from March 25 to 27, has long been a point of contention, with some viewing Ghazi as a revered figure and others as a symbol of historical invasions and massacres, **reports Rahul Singh**. On learning that the mela honoured Ghazi, ASP Shreesh Chandra made it clear that nod would not be granted. **FLAP INSIDE**

Fadnavis laments govt has to protect Aurangzeb's grave

'Bid To Glorify Tyrant Will Face Action'

Pradeep Gupta | TNN

Kalyan/ Mumbai: Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis Monday warned that his govt would take action if any attempt was made to glorify Aurangzeb in the state even as there was an uproar in the legislative assembly and council over PCC chief Harshvardhan Sapkal's statement comparing the chief minister to the Mughal emperor.

After inaugurating the Shaktipeeth temple dedicated to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Bhiwandi, Fadnavis said it is "unfortunate that the govt has to take responsibility for protection of Aurangzeb's grave despite his history of persecution". He added that any glorification in Maharashtra will solely be of the Maratha ruler. "Anyone attempting to glorify or promote the brutal ideologies of the tyrant Aurangzeb will face strict legal action, ensuring such ideologies are eradicated," the Maharashtra CM said.

Amid demands from the right-wing groups for removal of Aurangzeb's tomb in Khultabad, BJP minister Nitesh Rane, at another event in Pune district, invoked the demolition of Babri Masjid and asked Hindutva outfits "to do their duty while govt will carry out its responsibilities". Even as Mahayuti legislatures demanded action against Sapkal for his remarks against the CM, the state Congress chief remained firm on Monday, saying: "BJP leaders themselves compared CM Fadnavis to the cruel Aurangzeb."

Sapkal had said in Beed on Sunday, "Aurangzeb was a cruel ruler. Today, CM Devendra Fadnavis is an equally cruel ruler. He always supports issues related to religion but does nothing about cases like the murder of (Massajog) sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh."

Deputy CM Ajit Pawar told the assembly that Sapkal's remarks would be investigated. "Certain comments are made to please party seniors and grab eyeballs. But their (opposition's) vote share gets decreased and their true colours are seen. If such wrong remarks are made against persons in important positions, they will be verified and action will be taken," he said. In the council, when chairman Ram Shinde commenced the question hour, BJP members began sloganeering, leading to adjournment of the House for ten minutes. When the House reassembled, revenue minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said Sapkal's statement was wrong and the govt will take action in this regard.

BJP's Pravin Darekar said Sapkal had not just insulted the post of the chief minister but also the state of Maharashtra. "Sapkal must be counselled."

Defending his remark, Sapkal said comparing Fadnavis' governance to that of Aurangzeb highlights similarities between their regimes, not the individuals themselves.

"I did not use derogatory language against CM Fadnavis, nor did I address him disrespectfully, yet BJP leaders are resorting to personal attacks against me."

Madhu Kumre

Anti-riot police resorted to lathicharge to disperse a mob that ran amok at Mahal area of central Nagpur on Monday

UP right wing outfit announces ₹21 lakh reward for demolishing Aurangzeb tomb

A right-wing outfit in Uttar Pradesh has announced a reward of Rs 21 lakh for demolishing Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's grave in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district, reports **Sudeep Lavania**.

Dinesh Falahari, chief of Shri Krishna Janambhumi Sangharsh Nyas, made the announcement in a video message.

"Mughal emperor Aurangzeb demolished Hindu temples, perpetrated atrocities on Hindu women... He inflicted brutalities upon Maratha warriors, and I was distraught after witnessing that in a recent film. What purpose does his grave serve in India? I assert that his grave should be bulldozed; Aurangzeb's grave has no place in India. Whoever bulldozes Aurangzeb's grave will receive Rs 21 lakh from Shri Krishna Janambhumi Sangharsh Nyas," Falahari said.

HC slams Thane civic body for halting razing of illegal masjid

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Mumbai: Bombay high court recently slammed Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) for halting the demolition of an illegal mosque following resistance from a mob. It directed TMC to complete the demolition within two weeks of the Ramzan month ending.

An advocate for the trustees of the mosque said they will cooperate with TMC.

"It is a settled position of law that in a democratic state a person/group of persons or an association cannot be permitted to say that it will not follow the law of the land and will oppose it on any ground. In such circumstances, it is the duty of the law enforcers to make such a person/persons/association abide by the law of the land," said Justices Ajay Gadkari and Kamal Khata on March 10.

The petition was filed by New Shree Swami Samartha Borivade Housing Company Pvt Ltd, which owns more than 18,000 square metres in Borivade village, Kasarvadavali, to direct TMC to demolish the illegal structure.

TMC commissioner Saurabh Rao's affidavit said a Jan 1 site visit revealed the construction of a 3,600-sq-ft ground-plus-one-storey mosque with a prayer hall.

While its occupants claimed it was constructed when the area was under gram panchayat limits, there was no permission in the municipal record. After a show-cause notice and hearing, TMC on Jan 27 declared the structure unauthorised and directed its removal.

A RESPITE FROM THE UNREST

ANI

Girls dressed as 'Brajamai' (womenfolk of Braja-Brindavan) make their way to Shri Shri Govindaji Temple in Imphal to participate in Holi festivities on Monday. In Manipur, which has reeled under violence since 2023, Holi is celebrated as Yaoshang, a vibrant five-day festival

No nod for Sambhal mela tied to 'Somnath temple plunderer': Cops

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Meerut: Sambhal police have refused permission for the historic Neja Mela, citing objections to its association with Syed Salar Masood Ghazi, a 12th-century military commander under Mahmud Ghaznavi, who is linked to "plundering and violence" in India.

The annual fair, scheduled from March 25 to 27, has long been a point of contention, with some viewing Ghazi as a revered figure and others as a symbol of historical invasions and massacres in India.

The annual fair has long been a point of contention, with some viewing Ghazi as a revered figure and others as a symbol of invasions and massacres

When members of the Neja Mela Committee met Sambhal ASP Shreesh Chandra, on Monday to discuss the matter, they were asked to clarify whom the fair was dedicated to. On learning that it honoured Syed Salar Masood Ghazi, Chandra made it clear that permission would not be granted.

Chandra said, "It is not possible to permit a fair commemorating someone who plundered the Somnath temple and massacred people in the country. Celebrating an event in his memory is anti-national and can disturb law and order. If anyone attempts to do this, strict action will be taken, and they will be called traitors. If this is being done out of ignorance, that is one thing, but if it is intentional, then those involved are traitors."

Organisers have vowed to challenge the decision. "The fair has been organised for generations and we will make every effort to ensure our traditional mela is not stopped. We will meet the magistrate or even approach the court if necessary," said Shahid Hussain Masudi, president, Neja Mela Committee.

(With inputs from Asif Ansari in Bareilly)

Ban on mosque loudspeakers triggers return of an almost forgotten practice in Sambhal

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Meerut: When loudspeakers were pulled down from the 16th Century Mughal-era Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal on Feb 23 in a sweeping enforcement of noise regulations, the city's mosques fell silent. But with the azaan now reduced to a human voice carrying only as far as the air allows, an older, almost forgotten practice has returned — one that predates modern amplification and goes back to a time when waking up for sehri depended not on sirens or electronic calls, but on men who walked the streets in the dead of night, calling out to the fasting faithful and beating their drums.

This year, Mohd Shoaib has taken up that role, roaming the narrow lanes of Sambhal at 3am, ensuring that no one relying on the mosque's loudspeaker sleeps past their pre-dawn meal time. "Due to the ban on loudspeakers in mosques, the tradition has been revived since many people find it hard to wake up without the sehri siren. I'm only ensuring that people don't miss the blessed meal," he said, his voice cutting through the night as he repeated the familiar call: "Sehri ka time ho gaya hai... Sehri kar lijiye (It is time for sehri... have your sehri)," his words punctuated by the steady beat of his drum.

This year Mohd Shoaib has taken up the role of the 'sehri jagane wale' or sehri wakers

There was a time when this was the only way people knew it was time for sehri. Before technology took over, 'sehri jagane wale', or sehri wakers, would walk through towns and villages, their voices carrying across the quiet streets, ensuring no one missed their meal before the long day of fasting. Over time, their voices faded, drowned out by loudspeakers. But now, with noise limits strictly enforced, the practice has made a reluctant yet inevitable return.

In recent months, Sambhal police have filed FIRs against mosque imams for using loudspeakers above the permitted noise levels. But it was the removal of the loudspeakers from the Shahi Jama Masjid, where prayers had been amplified for generations, that stirred the most conversation.

A video of Imam Mohd Haji Raees delivering the azan from the mosque's rooftop, where the loudspeaker once stood, quickly spread across social media, raising debates about religious expression and the limits of state intervention. However, the authorities made it clear that while public address systems have been silenced, individual voices remain untouched by law. "Anyone can stand on a rooftop," said Sambhal SP Krishan Kumar Bishnoi.